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Activities at Guatemala IPU Meeting Reported

Soviets Term C.A. 'Peace Threat'

PA131955 Guatemala City Nuevo Radio Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] At a Political Commission meeting of the 79th IPU Conference, members of the Soviet delegation have said that the Central American region is the most specific threat to peace in Latin America. They said the conflict is international in scope and thus the Esquipulas II agreements must be strengthened. Members of the Soviet delegation said that the Central American region is facing serious economic and social problems and requires the help of countries with interests in the region. They support the Contadora Group efforts, which is why their country welcomes discussions with regard to this issue and the activation of talks that could help resolve the problem.

The Soviet parliamentarians said they advocate an end to arms supplies to Central America and, above all, a follow-up to and compliance with Esquipulas II agreements signed last August. They added that Soviet-Guatemalan relations are good, which is why they support efforts to achieve peace in Central America.

Argentine, UK Delegates Meet

PY142239 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2154 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM)—UCR Deputy Horacio Huarte, who is attending the 71st [as received] IPU Assembly in Guatemala with other Argentine legislators, has stated that, for the first time ever, a British delegation believes it is possible to hold negotiations on the Malvinas Islands that would include the sovereignty issue.

In remarks made by telephone to Radio Splendid, Huarte said the Argentine delegation held an informal 2-hour meeting with the British delegation. For the first time ever, a British deleqtion agreed to come to the Argentine Embassy to hold talks with an Argentine delegation that would include the sovereignty issue, Huarte said.

The British delegation was led by MP [Michael] Marshall, a Conservative and a former member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet. Marshall was accompanied by two members of the Labor Party and by one member of the Liberal Party.

Huarte described this meeting as significant and noted that the talks will continue in one way or another.

Huarte stated that this British action proves that the Argentine foreign policy formulated by the Foreign Ministry with congressional support is succeeding.

Further on Meeting

PY150100 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Apr (TELAM-ANSA)—The Malvinas problem and bilateral relations were discussed during a 2-and-1/2-hour meeting between Argentine and UK legislators, who are participating in an IPU conference in Guatemala City.

The Argentine delegation, headed by Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen (UCR), also included Senators Adolfo Gass (UCR) and Julio Amoedo (PCP) [Popular Conservative Party], and Deputies Federico Puerta (PJ) [Justicialist Party], Horacio Huarte (UCR), and Roberto Pascual Silva (UCR).

The UK delegation, headed by Michael Marshall (Conservative Party), a member of the House of Commons, also included House of Commons members George Foulkes and Donald Anderson (Labor Party), and Lord Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (Conservative Party).

The UK delegation was assisted by Peter Shaw, the secretary general of the UK legislators group.

According to informed sources, the meeting had an open agenda and no preconditions were set for either party. The Argentine representatives particularly noted that the present colonial status of the South Atlantic islands, whose sovereignty is claimed by Argentina, is a stumbling block to solving the controversy.

The Argentine representatives also condemned the recent UK maneuvers in the Malvinas Islands and said it is important to comply with UN resolutions so that the two countries can begin a dialogue without exclusions to resolve all the issues separating the countries.

The British delegates expressed the desire to continue the dialogue with the Argentine legislators.

Michael Marshall explained that the recent maneuvers may lead to a cut in the military budget allotted to the Malvinas. British legislators said they were in favor of intensifying extra-parliamentary relations, particularly in the cultural field, to enable a greater understanding of the Argentine position by the British. They also praised the restoration of democracy in Argentina and expressed their hope that all problems affecting the relationship between the two countries will be resolved in due time.

The chairmen of the Argentine and British delegations congratulated each other for holding an open and serious dialogue during which they discussed the most conflictive issues while both sides explained their points of view.

The meeting, held on the initiative of the Argentine delegation, took place at the residence of the Argentine ambassador to Guatemala.

Argentine Deputy Federico Puerta (PJ-Misiones) [Justicialist Party-Misiones Province] today addressed the meeting, in which the issue of environmental control was debated. He denounced the serious problems that pose a threat to humanity if the issue of environmental control is not confronted in a direct manner. He said: "We are threatened by a bomb that is much more dangerous than the nuclear bomb. Our rivers, all our resources, may be destroyed."

Puerta added that technological development per se is not tantamount to development and demanded that countries have more of a voice in this issue.

Suriname's Lachmon Comments

FL151844 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] During the last meeting of the Interparliamentary Union, IPU, Suriname has again been unanimously accepted as a member of this body. Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon, who headed the Surinamese delegation to the meeting, declared after being reaccepted that the peaceful way in which the military has given power to civilians in Suriname has been unique. The Assembly chairman expressed thanks to the IPU for its support during the democratization process and said that further support is essential.

In 1979, Suriname became a member of the IPU for the first time. After the parliament was dissolved in 1980, Suriname was suspended from the Interparliamentary Union. The Surinamese delegation is expected back in the country on Monday.

C.A. Bishops Denounce War, Drug Trafficking

PA171258 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] The Central American bishops ended their meeting in Santa Tecla this afternoon by issuing a document condemning war because it increases drug trafficking. The bishops were attending a regular meeting of the Episcopal Secretariat of Central America, SEDAC. After 2 days of reflection and discussion, they stated that the war in the region could have been ended by now, and in the name of Christian morality and political ethics, they asked those in power not to place their personal interests before anything else.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] When, aside from all its other calamities, this war becomes a business for some and a means of spreading drug trafficking for others, it becomes even more devastating for the people's patriotic, moral, and religious values. With the moral authority we are granted as church pastors, we condemn this evil war that analysts claim might have already ended in Central America if only it were not prolonged for the benefit of a few and by the ideological obstinacy of others, always at the cost of the majority's suffering. [end recording]

In the document, the Central American bishops also encouraged Nicaragua's peace efforts and requested, in the name of Christ, that no more weapons be sent to Central America.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] In the name of the youth we must prepare for the year 2000. Threatened today by unemployment, drugs, and other vices, we ask and respectfully demand that our countries' authorities confront these evils and that they increase their efforts to stop drug trafficking. We demand, in the name of Christ, the prince of peace, and in the name of man, God's worthiest creation, that all responsible nations, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, send no more weapons to Central America. [end recording]

The Central American bishops' condemnation in this document might be considered one of the strongest statements by the church in the last few months. This conference of Central American bishops has practically told the world that the war in Central America is being sustained by the dirty business of drug trafficking and personal interests.

Andean Countries Ministers Discuss Agriculture

PY161841 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 15 Apr (EFE)—The agriculture ministers of the five Andean countries today said the consolidation of the democratic process in the region depends on the development of agriculture in order to raise the living standard of the poorest sectors.

The agriculture ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela issued a 14-point joint declaration at the end of their 3-day meeting, confirming their decision to grant a higher priority to the agricultural sector than to the industrial sector.

The group discussed the renewed importance of this sector as a "basic factor for economic growth, social development, and integration" among the countries that are members of the Cartagena Accord signed 20 years ago.

The ministers expressed their common concern at "the distortions" that drug trafficking has introduced in their economies and said they need "the contributions of governments and international financial institutions" to combat the traffickers, as previously stated by the Andean foreign ministers.

The ministers expressed their commitment to coordinate their agrarian policies to increase agricultural trade among them, to revitalize agriculture in the region, and to promote diversified programs involving food production, raw materials, and agro-industrial development.

The five ministers believe it is necessary to promote the creation of an Andean multinational food enterprise and fund for food emergencies, as well as promote the fulfillment of previous commitments on lifting customs restrictions on agricultural trade.

The Andean countries' joint declaration also includes the decision to implement a regional food program, promote local social security food programs, and work for closer links among regional peasant associations.

The declaration confirms the intention of the five countries to promote technical cooperation through a permanent system of consultation and information, and to support the consolidation of the Andean Cattle Growers Confederation.

The ministers expressed in the document their decision to hold annual meetings because only five other meetings have been held since the creation of the Andean Pact in 1968, and the last one was held 4 years ago.

The document was signed by the agriculture ministers of Bolivia, Jose Guillermo Justiniano; Colombia, Luis Guillermo Parra Dussan; Ecuador, Marcos Espinel Martinez; Peru, Remigio Morales Bermudez; and Venezuela, Wenceslao Mantilla.

Cuba

Commentary Scores U.S. Exercises in Region

PA162210 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] For the last 15 days, U.S. military exercises called "Ocean Venture 88"—one more step in the prearranged war scenario being carried out—have been taking place in suspicious silence, turning the Caribbean Sea, the western Atlantic Ocean, the Florida coast, and the Gulf of Mexico into a virtual war zone.

For 7 years, the Yankee Pentagon has displayed its troops in this strife-torn area, increasingly threatened by the U.S. Administration's meddling and destabilization plans.

A few days ago, we recalled that in 1981, the war exercises were a fierce, warlike warning for Grenada and Nicaragua. In every case, these have been obvious messages of intimidation to governments that Washington considers its enemies in the hemisphere.

The exercises take place every 2 years, but it is interesting to learn that the most notorious aspect of the so-called ocean adventures in 1981 was their island scenario: Vieques Island in Puerto Rican territory, christened for the occasion with the name Amber, a codename that Pentagon intelligence services understood as referring to Grenada back then.

The practical phase was implemented on 25 October 1983, through the invasion and occupation of that country in the Caribbean Sea, which still bears the scars of the armed intervention that buried the most popular political process in the English-speaking Antilles.

This time, the military exercises, which have been under way for 15 days, are based on the deployment of nearly 40,000 troops along with airplanes and warships belonging to the U.S. Army, the National Guard, the Coast Guard, the Air Force, and the Navy. Most of the personnel, materiel, and equipment used in these operations belongs to special rapid deployment forces, such as, for example, the 82d Airbone Division, which landed in Grenada and which recently carried out a show of force on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The silence surrounding these exercises is so much more noticeable as tensions in the Central American area increase, precisely because of Yankee attempts to change the political course in Nicaragua and Panama. The warmongering aggressiveness and flexing of muscles are, by themselves, a provocation to be taken into account, especially if one recalls that during the last few weeks, troops and combat equipment have been periodically dispatched by the Pentagon to Central America.

Everything seems to indicate that they are preparing to invade a country within the area, but this dangerous project, if carried out, will surely not be a pleasure trip for the U.S. troops, however trained they may be.

Further Reportage on Outgoing Soviet Envoy

Meets With Almeida, Rodriguez

FL151327 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has received Aleksandr Kapto, Soviet ambassador to Cuba and member of the CPSU Central Committee, who will soon return to his country.

Kapto was also received by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

The state of cooperation between Cuba and the USSR and development of fraternal bilateral relations were highly praised during the meeting.

Fidel Castro at Reception

FL161055 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1015 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Last night the Soviet ambassador to Cuba held a reception marking the end of his tour of duty in our country.

The fraternal event was attended by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz and Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC and FAR minister.

Fidel and Raul had a fraternal chat with Ambassador Aleksandr Kapto, who will soon return to the Soviet Union.

Congolese Prime Minister Notes Cooperation Ties

FL142308 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Ange Edouard Poungui, prime minister of the People's Republic of the Congo and member of the Congolese Labor Party Politburo, has noted his country's will to strengthen the already existing Cuban-Congolese economic cooperation ties.

The leader of the brother African country reported that the Congo, as well as the rest of the Third World countries, is going through a serious economic crisis caused by external factors, including the drop in oil prices and the increase in interest rates. As an example of the present state of the economy in his country, Prime Minister Poungui said the Congo now produces more oil; however, it has less profits than before. He also pointed

out that the UN program to help African countries has not yielded results yet because the countries and organizations participating in it have not complied with their commitments.

Ange Edouard Poungui, during a news conference at the Palace of Conventions, said the party, government, and people of the Congo have initiated an extensive economic austerity plan to solve the serious crisis. Measures taken include becoming self-sufficient; decreasing expenses; building highways and bridges to expand communications; and promoting agricultural development with the slogan "back to earth."

The reduction of public expenditures and increase of national production are essential points of the austerity plan, which the people are carrying out with exemplary patriotic spirit, noted the Congolese prime minister.

The African leader said that Cuba's cooperation with the Congo in the field of education has lasted for many years and is very efficient. He stated that next to the Soviet Union and France, Cuba has the largest number of Congolese students.

Meets With Castro

FL151313 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Congolese Prime Minister Ange Edouard Poungui who is visiting our country.

The visitor conveyed greetings to Fidel from Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

In his meeting with our commander in chief, Poungui gave his impressions of his visit to our country. The leaders also examined the results of the talks between the Congolese delegation and their Cuban counterparts.

The head of the revolution also attended a friendly meeting held in honor of the Congolese delegation that is visiting our country. Members of the Cuban delegation and the African diplomatic corps accredited in our country also participated in the meeting.

Talks With Rodriguez

FL161130 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez yesterday met in Havana with Congolese Prime Minister Ange Edouard Poungui.

The two leaders discussed the results of the Congolese prime minister's activities in Cuba.

Rodriguez said Poungui's visit is very positive.

Espin News Conference in Berlin Reported

FL151411 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Vilma Espin, president of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], has said that the U.S. Government is primarily responsible for the conflicts in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Panama.

During a news conference in Berlin, the Cuban leader said that the role of women continues to grow in those struggles and in denouncing the injustices committed in the region and elsewhere, throughout the world.

Angolan IPU Delegate Cited on Troop Withdrawal

FL161143 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Angola is willing to set up a timetable for the progressive withdrawal of Cuban combatants if the United States and South Africa comply with the stated conditions.

This remark was made in Guatemala City by Lucio Lara, secretary of his country's parliament. Lara is heading the Angolan delegation to the 79th IPU Conference, which ends today. He said that Cuban troops are in Angola to prevent a total South African invasion. Their presence was agreed upon by the two governments, Lara said.

South Africa has now introduced 10,000 troops and 400 tanks in southern Angola, he said.

Raul Castro Presides Over Militia Day Ceremony

FL161842 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, today presided over the main event marking Militia Day.

The military ceremony marking the 27th anniversary of the declaration of the socialist nature of the revolution was held at the Cabana rifle range.

After reviewing the troops, the promotion order was read and epaulets were presented to the militia members.

Rene Penalver, second secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, conveyed the congratulations of the working class on Militia Day.

The closing remarks were made by Fidel Ramos, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Pinar del Rio provincial committee.

[Begin Ramos recording] Allow me, on this day that is so significant in the history of our country, to proclaim once again our friendship and appreciation to the Soviet Union and its heroic people and to make note that,

Ambassador Aleksandr Kapto, who is here with us, is among those who are worthy representatives of its party and government. [applause] [end recording]

The ceremony ended with the troops marching in review.

Army Gen Raul Castro later presented a group of writers, artists, and journalists with a replica of Maximo Gomez' machete.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] On behalf of the comrades being honored, we would like to express the profound emotion and great honor that we feel in receiving today this valued and prestigious award from the FAR. This award, in the language of symbols, tells us how much the FAR, our invincible shield, loves the unselfish and humble work of artists. [end recording]

CDR-FAR Seminar Highlights Attention to Youth

FL160300 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The two subjects of main interest at the fifth National Committee for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR]-FAR seminar have been the new recruitment system for active military service and the attention to the internationalist youths. The meeting was held at the General Maximo Gomez, Antonio Maceo Order FAR Academy.

The event was presided over by Armando Acosta Cordero, member of the PCC Central Committee and national coordinator of the CDR, and by FAR generals, chiefs, and officers. During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the changes that have taken place in the recruitment commissions. Various factors are taken into consideration by the commissions to determine a youth's placement so that he may comply with his military service.

It was also stated that the CDR and FAR must jointly become involved in the attention paid to the internationalist youths. They must motivate them morally and socially as examples to be followed.

The participants agreed that the recruitment process has become a democratic process wherein the qualifications of a youth who will become soldier of the country are taken into account.

Although not everything is perfect in the work on the CDR-FAR front, the progress that has been made was acknowledged. Armando Acosta, upon making the closing remarks, noted that this has been the best CDR-FAR seminar, in terms of quality, since the front was created. He also termed as highly positive the discussions, which he said demonstrate that we are getting to the core of the problems.

Leaders Address UJC First Secretaries Seminar

FL152337 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the PCC Politburo, has addressed the Union of Young Communists [UJC] seminar for first secretaries on domestic and foreign affairs and noted how useful these seminars are.

The party leader said a lot of attention should be given to working youths. He explained that hundreds of young people now work in factories; this was not the case 5 years ago. Machado Ventura reported to the more than 250 national delegates attending the seminar that the provinces will be visited from July to December for closer examination of the work in each region, particularly the work carried out by youths. He asserted that the seminar for UJC first secretaries helps create understanding of the new structural changes and opens a new stage in the life of the UJC cadres.

Juan Escalona Reguera, minister of justice, also spoke at the UJC seminar and mentioned that the new penal code will be in effect on 30 April. He pointed out that the most important thing is for people to understand what we intend to do with the implementation of the new code and the actions that will be taken against crimes of all types and their causes. The justice minister asserted that we are focusing our efforts on controlling all factors which result in mistakes and preventing negligence and carelessness in warehouses, clothing stores, and restaurants.

For his part, Division General Rogelio Acevedo Gonzales, chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, noted that the patriotic-military and internationalist educational system is especially important, mainly among youths.

Bahamas

Spokesman Cited on Senate Decertification Vote

FL151538 Bridgetown CANA in English 1437 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 15, CANA—The Bahamas, facing possible de-certification as a nation worthy of receiving American aid in the war against narcotics, says that the U.S. stands to lose its staunchest ally in the anti-drug fight.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday voted to reject a government-recommended re-certification of the Bahamas, contending that the tourist chain just off Florida was failing to deal adequately with drug trafficking to the United States.

A Bahamas foreign affairs spokeman said that the Committee's efforts to de-certify the Bahamas threatened "what has been the best bi-lateral law enforcement

co-operation on drugs interdiction in the world." The spokesman said the Bahamas per capita spending on drug interdiction far exceeded that of the United States or any of its other allies.

He said despite allegations that "systemic corruption" in the Bahamian Government made the country a haven for drug runners, requests (made by the accused) for proof had been ignored by the accusers.

A joint U.S.-Bahamas base in the western Bahamas allows the U.S. ships and aircraft to operate in Bahamian waters and airspace if in pursuit of "drug criminals."

While de-certification would mean no loss of money—the Bahamas receives no financial aid for the drug interdiction—trade benefits, granted under descretionary powers by the U.S. President, could be affected.

Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs Clement Maynard said the Bahamas was doing all it could to combat the drug problem.

Recently-enacted legislation makes confiscation of property traced to "drug money" mandatory and persons found guilty of possession of drugs "with intent to supply" face penalties of up to life imprisonment.

Maynard said that government is "disheartened", and charged that those persons who voted against President Reagan's proposal to re-certify the Bahamas were seeking to use the Bahamas as "a scapegoat." He said the Bahamas would battle the problem on its own if it had to.

The full U.S. Senate must make the final decision.

Grenada

Former PM on Party Leader's Link With Libya

FL150127 Bridgetown CANA in English 1842 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, April 14, CANA—Former Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy says he is, so far, unmoved by revelations of an apparently innocent link between his heir apparent in the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and Libya.

Sir Eric appeared unconcerned about reports circulating in the country that physicist Dr. Raphael Fletcher had spent some time in Libya in 1981 as associate professor in the science department of Bracks Higher Institute of Techology.

I am not moved one way or the other by the rumours—at least, not yet, Sir Eric told CANA. ...We have not given them any consideration or second thought, he added.

Fletcher, 60, was expected to be elected Sir Eric's successor when the GULP holds a convention later this month. But there were some questions as to whether or not the convention would take place as scheduled, since the GULP appeared unable to find a suitable venue. Sir Eric said a decision would be made Friday.

Fletcher was expected to be elected unopposed at the convention, following Sir Eric's announcement earlier this year that he is giving up the leadership of the 37-year-old GULP. But he acknowledged that some party supporters had voiced concern that Grenada's traditional Western friends, particularly Britain, Canada, and the United States, would be concerned about Fletcher's period in Libya.

People are concerned about securing the victory which is more important. The victory of the Grenda United Labour Party at the polls is more important than any one person within the party structure...said Sir Eric. If I myself were in frontline politics as the prospective prime minister, and certain foreign governments were seriously against me, I doubt that I would push myself and reduce the party's chances of winning the elections, he added.

He declined comment on weather any representatives of Britain, the U.S., or Canada raised the question of Fletcher's stint in Libya with him.

Labor Minister Warns of Communist Plot

FL161521 Bridgetown CANA in English 1450 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 16, CANA—Grenada's minister of state for labour and cooperatives, Senator Norton Noel, has warned of a communist plot to take power.

He told a public meeting of the ruling New National Party (NNP) that the same people who overthrew the island's parliamentary system in 1979 are still at work.

Nine years ago, the Marxist-oriented New Jewel Movement (NJM) toppled the Sir Eric Gairy government in the first coup d'etat in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Norton siad he saw signs of a similar pattern to when the NJM started its campaign against the Gairy government. He said that the political left was taking a low profile but was working underground to support its cause. He claimed that the gunning down of four persons recently in two rural parishes was not accidential.

"Those of us who study the techniques of Marxist ideology, we know it's not accidental. It's a planned strategy, and the worst is still to come if we are not careful," he said.

"So I am asking you as the Grenadian people to be very watchful...keep your ears and eyes open..."

Grenada's 1979-83 flirtation with Marxism was ended by a U.S.-led invasion triggered by the execution of NJM Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a palace coup.

Haiti

Tension in Factories Noted; Strike Announced

FL152345 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] This week, the big news involves factories. On Wednesday alone, inside the Mevs Industrial Park on National Highway No 1, there was turbulence in two factories. Soldiers from Fort Dimanche were sent to Omnicron after some tension. A female worker ended up with a broken arm.

At Inter-America, the workers went on strike for back pay owed them. For their part, the unionized workers at El Maco have announced a strike for next Monday, to demand justice from their employer. The executive committee of the El Maco workers union has sent a letter to Social Affairs Director Ely Jean informing him that the workers disagree with the conclusions of the partial investigation that the Labor Department conducted at that plant. They say that the investigation certainly didn't involve the stockroom, where all the materials they work with were confiscated. All the Labor Department was able to note was that there wasn't much work available and not many workers were working.

They temporarily lifted the strike they had begun on 4 March while they attempted to find a negotiated solution to their conflict with the employer. The workers union had wanted to prove how understanding they were, but they now have noted that there has been no change in the employer's behavior. Also, the Labor Department did not do its job as it should have. This came as a great shock to them.

A worker, (Lisette Jason), suffered a head wound at the hands of one of the plant's personnel, yet justice has not been meted out to this day. Also, some 500 workers were laid off approximately 1 month ago and this problem has as yet never been solved. They are preparing to fire some 422 workers next Monday and the Labor Department has yet to take a position on these matters. There are also many other things that must be settled.

For this reason, the workers are very dissatisfied. They inform the people that they will go on strike on Monday, 18 April, with a view to finding a solution to these problems.

Public Works Ministry Warns Against Job Selling

FL152158 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] The Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Communications, and City Planning informs the people that it is aware of the many rumors circulating to the effect that jobs on public works projects throughout the capital, which are employing many people, are being sold.

The Ministry of Public Works has taken measures to stop these dishonest acts.

The ministry informs, so that everyone will be forewarned, that anyone caught red-handed will be severely sanctioned in conformity with the law.

Officials React to Senate Vote on Drug Efforts

PA151414 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1315 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The U.S. Senate has rejected the presidential certification that recognized Mexico as fully cooperating in the struggle against drug trafficking. The legislators' resolution could lead to U.S. economic sanctions against Mexico. President Ronald Reagan's opinion is contrary to the Senate's, however. Reagan said he will veto any resolution that does not recognize our country's efforts in the struggle against drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat immediately reacted to the Senate vote. Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said no power can claim the right to certify the behavior of other societies or governments.

In an official communique, Sepulveda stated that Mexico has a conviction that is as deeply rooted as our history and laws. He said this conviction is that it is only up to our people to make a decision about their institutions, without any foreign interference. He added that only the people have the inalienable right to lead their own destiny.

The Attorney General's Office also reacted to this vote. It said President Reagan's recognition of the Mexican efforts and the Senate's opinion are an internal matter that only concerns U.S. authorities. In addition, the Attorney General's Office noted that as far as the Mexicans are concerned, a judgment about Mexico's tasks in the struggle against drug trafficking only concerns our people and government.

Despite this, the Attorney General's Office expressed surprise and displeasure over the U.S. Senate vote, because the U.S. legislators are ignoring Mexico's major effort to fight a problem whose causes cannot be attributed to our country.

Defense Secretary Cited

FL160159 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2325 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Chihuahua, Mexico, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui has termed as false the accusations being made abroad alleging Mexico is not paying enough attention to the drug problem. He said the opposite is true; our government will not step back in the campaign against drug smuggling. He asserted that, taking into account its limitations, Mexico has made a big effort in fighting drug trafficking because we do not want drugs to be harvested or smuggled in our country.

As evidence of these efforts, Arevalo Gardoqui recalled that 5 years ago there were only two active campaigns against drug smuggling, while now 22 special operations have been initiated. Through them, 423,927 poppy fields, 282,894 marijuana plantations, and 5,070 kg of cocaine have been destroyed, just to mention some figures.

He noted that the marijuana that was incinerated would have intoxicated 153 million people taking five doses a day. Likewise, he mentioned that the destroyed drugs would have been enough to turn 970 million people into addicts. This figure represents twice the population of all Latin America.

If this does not constitute a fight against drug trafficking, who knows what is expected to be done since the efforts are made on a daily basis. Some 25,000 members of the Army and Air Force have been assigned to these tasks. They struggle constantly throughout the entire country, stressed Arevalo Gardoqui. He added that 499 soldiers have died in the fulfillment of their duties in the fight against drug smuggling.

Salinas: Senate 'Unjust'

PA171222 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Isabel Zamorano in Matehuala, San Luis Potosi]

[Text] Carlos Salinas de Gortari today recommended that efforts be made to prevent possible damage to Mexican-U.S. relations because of the U.S. Senate's attempt to withdraw President Ronald Reagan's certification of our government's struggle against drug trafficking. In Matehuala, the PRI presidential candidate said the Senate's attitude is unjust and unacceptable and represents an attempt to intervene in our affairs. He also said he believes that this attitude by some U.S. senators is an attempt to win votes. Salinas de Gortari said it is unjust for this group of senators to blame external causes for a problem that exists within their country, seeing other countries' problems and not their own.

As PRI presidential candidate, Salinas de Gortari expressed support for the government's efforts to fight drug trafficking. He also rejected attempts by a foreign power to grant certifications of the conduct of other nations. He warned that Mexico does not accept certifications from any country because we Mexicans are the ones who control our efforts and destiny. Salinas de Gortari added that because drug trafficking is an international problem, its solution requires the cooperation of all affected countries.

Further on Salinas Remarks

FL161809 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0429 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Matehuala, 15 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Rejecting the claim of a foreign power to award certificates of conduct to other nations, Carlos Salinas de Gortari has firmly

expressed his support for the Mexican Government's position that the responsibility for fighting drug trafficking only concerns our people and government.

The PRI presidential candidate publicly recognized the work of the Armed Forces, the Attorney General's Office, and other authorities who valiantly fight and are decidedly against drug trafficking. He said that the sacrifice of lives, growing confiscation of drugs, channeling of vast amounts of resources, and the conviction of its authorities give authentic proof of Mexico's willingness to solve this problem.

Salinas de Gortari made these remarks at a dinner with members of the production sectors of Matehuala, San Luis Potosi. The event was held at the Mutualist Society building on his second day of campaigning here.

He stated that the Mexican people do not accept certificates from any country. We—and we alone—choose our own direction and decide our own destiny, Salinas de Gortari said.

In view of everything that has been done to fight drug trafficking, and acknowledging that it is a multinational challenge that requires the cooperation of many countries affected by this problem, we should avoid the damage the U.S. Senate's action—an unjust and unacceptable attack—could cause to bilateral relations.

In his meeting with the Mutualist Society, Salinas de Gortari stressed that it is not right that some U.S. senators blame others for a problem that originates within their own borders in order to win votes; to see the mote in another's eye and not the beam in one's own.

Citing that the action of the U.S. Senate is contradictory to the action Mexico is taking in its fight against drug trafficking, he said that the Mexican people are concerned that the drug market is widening in the Untied States. This increases trafficking and causes so much damage in our nation, he said.

Salinas de Gortari said that the information published in the United States shows that much more dangerous drugs are being produced in the northern country and the laundering of illicit funds has become a concern.

In conclusion, Salinas de Gortari said he is confident Mexico will firmly combat drug trafficking because it represents a risk to Mexican national security, harmonious coexistance, and society. He called on all Mexican nationals to increase their efforts in this fight.

The PRI candidate met this morning with the directors of newspapers and television and radio networks from San Luis Potosi. He told them he would always speak the truth about the Mexican people.

The fundamental thing for me is to report the facts and surrounding circumstances so that the community can continue its development based on true information, he said. As a result, he continued, the people can establish their criteria for the actions they consider indispensable.

In reference to mass communications methods, Salinas de Gortari said this requires a balance between the press in each state and in Mexico City.

Senator Rejects Resolution

PA162024 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Mexican Senator Salvador Neme Castillo, in progress] "...of the Mexican Government does not depend on recognition or interventionist opinion. Mexico fights drugs as a matter of concern for the state because this is advisable for the nation's interests and not to please another member of the international community."

That is Mexico's position regarding the U.S. Senate resolution on the, quote, certification, unquote, of Mexico's cooperation in the international campaign against drugs. Senator Neme Castillo also said the practice of judging the conduct and actions of countries with which diplomatic relations exist is unfriendly and contrary to international law. He reiterated the following:

[Neme Castillo] "As a federal institution of the Mexican state, the Senate categorically and absolutely refuses to accept that any state has the right to judge and evaluate the actions of the Mexican Government. We believe passing judgment on the conduct of other countries constitutes interference in the domestic affairs of another state. For the Senate, the sovereignty of the Mexican state cannot be caught up in the political-electoral crossfire in the United States."

Senator Neme Castillo spoke about the different opinions in the United States regarding drug trafficking.

[Neme Castillo] "One must point out the implicit disagreement that exists among the various U.S. branches. On the one side, the executive branch, responsible for drug programs, presents one view of the issue and on the other side, the branch that analyzes results expresses a different view."

That is the reaction of the Mexican Senate to statements today by State Department spokesman Charles Redman who, on giving his opinion about the U.S. Senate decision, said that far from being useful, the vote punishes a friend for being less than perfect. Senator Neme Castillo criticized some of his U.S. counterparts who see the faults of others and not their own. He said there are magazines in the United States that advise drug consumers.

[Neme Castillo] "They tell you how to grow marijuana in gardens in private homes and what types of plants better withstand sunlight and grow bigger. I am not going to read further from them. There is an ad for a beer that can be made from marijuana. I ask you: If this magazine freely circulates and if one can subscribe to it, is this a way to fight drug consumption or is this a way to promote consumption? That is a question we ask."

In concluding, the senator spoke about the radicalization of some U.S. sectors.

[Neme Castillo] "There are some in the United States who would love to have U.S. warplanes enter Mexico in pursuit of criminals. This is something that Mexico has never accepted under any circumstance. It does not accept this or any other measure that harms its sovereignty."

U.S. 'Slander Campaign' Scored

PA172321 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Apr 88 p 6-A

[Editorial: "U.S. Police Corruption"]

[Text] Mexico is the target of a slander campaign promoted by certain U.S. politicians who blame the increased infusion of drugs into the United States on the alleged corruption in our country.

Our authorities have vigorously rejected the accusations, without denying that corruption exists, but proving with facts that we are struggling against it. Our authorities have also said the cause of drug trafficking is on the other side of the border: a large demand for drugs caused by the large number of drug addicts, who are estimated at 30 to 35 million. These addicts also have vast economic resources. Our authorities have also pointed to another cause. There is such a high level of police corruption in the United States that drugs are sold on the streets in plain sight of everyone, including the authorities, of course.

A report issued by U.S. police officials in Cordele, Georgia, proves us right. The report says: "The corruption in the U.S. criminal justice system is more widespread now than at any time since Prohibition. This is because of the power and profitability of the illegal drug industry." The report also mentions cases of sheriffs who earn thousands of dollars in one night "supervising" airdrops of drugs.

The U.S. authorities must fight U.S. drug addicts and marijuana producers. Marijuana is the second most important crop after corn in the United States. Above all, however, the U.S. authorities must jail their corrupt policemen. Meanwhile, Mexico will continue to fulfill its commitment in the struggle against those who poison the people.

Salinas de Gortari Campaigns in San Luis Potosi

Outlines Political Commitments

PA151319 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Ana Cristina Pelaez]

[Excerpt] Strict respect for the duties established in the Constitution is the basis for strengthening democratic political life and finding answers to social demands. This was said today by PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Salinas de Gortari said that his political commitments are clear:

[Begin recording] To continue correcting the extremes of wealth and poverty; these extremes are an insult to our origins and hinder Mexico's democratic modernization. [end recording]

The PRI presidential candidate spoke in San Luis Potosi shortly after starting a 3-day campaign tour. At a meeting during which the social content of the Mexican Constitution was analyzed, Salinas de Gortari said that social policy cannot be the mere result of growth; it is the result of democratic coexistence:

[Begin recording] There can be no democratic society if there is no food on the table, water to drink, and education to form the citizen and prepare him for more advanced development. There can be no democracy if there is no respect for the law, if the social rights and individual guarantees are not respected, and if there are no expeditious courts removed from pressures and interference. [end recording]

Salinas de Gortari recalled that history has taught us a sense of justice and this means our national development plans must help those without voice and power. He rejected the idea that first we must grow and later, much later, distribute the fruit of our growth. The PRI presidential candidate said that in the measure that growth is recovered, he will strengthen justice and answer the most urgent demands of the people. He will do this with political determination. He said that the load of development must be distributed and Mexico cannot advance if society is not involved in the solution of problems. It is necessary, Salinas de Gortari said, that political determination and mutual responsibility take the same path in order to change attitudes and avoid inertia.

The PRI presidential candidate traveled by train to San Luis Potosi. Speaking from the platform at the railroad station, Salinas de Gortari offered the railroad workers his support and said he will work to further develop the national railroad system. [passage omitted]

Urges Industrial Modernization

PA151655 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Juan Pablo Guerrero]

[Text] The PRI Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies held a meeting on industrial modernization in San Luis Potosi. It was said that the objective of such modernization is to increase the living standards in Mexico, improve productivity, and create more jobs that provide better salaries in order to be able to compete efficiently in international markets and obtain the necessary foreign exchange.

However, it was admitted that conditions are adverse. For many years, Mexican industries have been protected from foreign competition and thus have grown with adverse characteristics. In addition, the competition in international markets is currently very strong. Let us listen to PRI candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari:

[Begin recording] We realize we are asking industries that have been seriously hurt by market reductions and limited resources to compete internationally on an equal basis at a time when there is also a possibility of a world recession, in which case international industries would try to sell their surplus products to Mexico.

Undoubtedly, the business mortality rate in the next few years will break all previous records unless we change the current patterns and start implementing innovative solutions. [end recording]

The crisis has created economic imbalance; for example, industrial production has constantly dropped. Another obstacle to Mexico's industrial production has been the reduction in oil prices and the subsequent loss of foreign exchange. In this regard, Salinas de Gortari said:

[Begin recording; broadcast in progress] ...not only the price of minerals, cotton, and other products, but also oil prices. A barrel of oil that sold for $30 in 1980 sells today for $7. The real purchasing value of 1/4 of the [words indistinct]. That is one of the main challenges the current administration has had to face, and it has represented a harsh blow for our national economy. The efforts made in this regard [words indistinct] inflation are praiseworthy, particularly the fact that the country's productive system remains intact. [end recording]

Workers also participated in the meeting. From their viewpoint, industrial modernization not only should mean more jobs, but also better working conditions.

Salinas de Gortari said the objective of an industrial modernization is improving the living standards of workers and the Mexican people in general. He said that although there will be no subsidies for industries, obstacles will be eliminated through cooperation between the private, social, and public sectors. He predicted that a reduction in the public deficit will increase available credit under better terms for the industrial sector.

In concluding, Salinas de Gortari said he favors an active and selective promotion of direct foreign investments in Mexico as a means to augment our economic resources.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Addresses Queretaro Rally

PA162119 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Apr 88 p 4

[By Raul Correa]

[Excerpts] Queretaro, 8 Apr—[Passage omitted] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, presidential candidate of the National Democratic Front [FDN], has said that Queretaro saw the end of foreign intervention in Mexico in the 19th century and that, in the same way, it will see the end of the interventionist plan from abroad and of the current government, which wants to prolong its existence to continue subjugating the people.

He stated that he is unwilling to compromise and that he seeks legal elections so that a legitimate government will emerge, supported by the political will of the majority of Mexicans.

We will not allow the people's triumph to be snatched away; our armed struggle will be a mobilization in the streets and public squares, using the instruments established in our Constitution.

Cardenas' speech was frequently interrupted by the applause of approximately 5,000 people attending the rally. They cheered the FDN candidate and booed the PRI and bad government.

This afternoon, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas arrived at the University of Queretaro Radio XHUAQ facilities, but he soon left the building, located on the university campus, after station employee Ed Martinez told him that, on orders of the rector's office, headed by Jesus Perez Hermosillo, and later on the instructions of coordinator Gloria del Carmen Zepeda, Cardenas would not be interviewed on Sergio Serrano's program called Chat at 1400. [passage omitted]

In tonight's rally, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas viewed as very serious the fact that freedom of expression is restricted at a university radio station, which should be open to different political and philosophical ideas.

He explained that the FDN will build a government in which freedom of expression will be respected, and he said that the right to information and the political parties' and all citizens' right to express themselves must be safeguarded. [passage omitted]

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ends Visit

FL150220 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0455 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Kaya Erdem, deputy prime minister of Turkey, has reported that Mexico and Turkey agreed today to open lines of credit for trade through authorized official banks.

The Turkish official, who ended his official visit in Mexico, said in a news conference that another agreement dealt with technical and mining assistance, especially in the handling of silver.

He noted that after meeting with Fernando Hiriart Balderrama, secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industry, the possibility of Turkey buying pipes for pipelines was considered, since Mexico has a surplus.

The Turkish deputy prime minister was received by President Miguel de la Madrid and met with the secretaries of finance and public credit and foreign relations, as well as with the chairman of the Council of Enterprises for International Affairs.

On another matter, Erdem stated that he was surprised by the statements against his visit made by the Greek Embassy in Mexico since he noted the two countries had agreed to settle their differences without any type of publicity. He gave assurances Turkey is willing to withdraw its troops from Cyprus as long as the lives of the Turks are respected and there is no interference.

Responding to questions, Erdem asserted that his government is in complete agreement with the proposal made by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Cyprus become a federal binational nonaligned state with two communities and two zones.

He categorically denied that human rights are violated in Turkey. He stressed: There are no tortures or political prisoners; all rumors regarding this are provoked by terrorists and murderers who are in jail.

Finally, he said any organization can visit his country to confirm that there has been more respect for human rights in the last 3 years than at any other time.

Briefs

March Oil Price Drop

Pemex has reported that March prices for Mexican crude oil exported to the Far East dropped as a result of lower prices on the international market. Isthmus oil dropped by $1.62 per barrel and Maya oil by $1.63. Mexico currently supplies 180,000 barrels of oil to Japan each day. March sales to the Far East accounted for 11 percent of total oil exports. [Summary] [*PA121919 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Apr 88 p 4*]

Costa Rica

Arias on U.S. Trip; Denies Guatemalan Mediation

PA171942 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez has said his trip to the United States was very fruitful. He noted that he is very proud of the recognition that Costa Rica received. The president returned to Costa Rica today at 1730 following a 2-day trip to Washington. There, he met with U.S. Vice President George Bush. Arias Sanchez also met with Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Barber Conable, president of the World Bank. Upon his return to the country Arias discussed the results of his meetings.

[Begin Arias recording] [Passage omitted] During a lunch with the association of newsmen and editors, which more than 900 people attended, I think my message sank in. I hope that you reported this. I really had a chance to talk with many newsmen there regarding many topics. We not only talked about regional politics but many other topics. [Words indistinct] that our country is respected and admired more and more. As you know, we had the opportunity to talk with the leaders of international organizations like the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Very soon, we will achieve a long-standing goal with these two organizations. We will sign an agreement with the World Bank. We truly hope the Legislative Assembly will (?approve it) for the good of the Republic as soon as possible. As for the Inter-American Development Bank, we want it to become our ally in a hard fight. I have often told you that we must wage a hard fight in the 2d half of this year to improve our ability to pay our foreign debt. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The Costa Rican president also said he did not offer to be the mediator between the Guatemalan guerrillas and government. Arias Sanchez was asked about the decision by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo to not accept his mediation in the event of a dialogue with the Guatemalan guerrillas. The president said Costa Rica has never offered to act as mediator. This is what he had to say on the subject:

[Begin Arias recording] Costa Rica has at no time offered to be mediator. Costa Rica has at no time offered to be mediator. [repeats himself] If someone asks Cerezo if he accepts Costa Rica as mediator, he would necessarily have to say no, because I have never offered Costa Rica as the mediator. It is quite the opposite. I have told him that Costa Rica would lend its territory, its hospitality, and the warmth of its people to those who want to have a dialogue to find peace. I am sure President Cerezo would accept that. If they reach an agreement through the Guatemalan National Reconciliation Commission—as Cerezo guaranteed to me—and if the Guatemalan guerrillas agree that the dialogue be held here with that commission, I do not expect any problems in accepting Costa Rica. I am sure of that. [end recording]

El Salvador

Duarte Rejects New Dialogue With FMLN

PA151545 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara in Ahuachapan—passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today President Duarte denied that a new dialogue with the guerrillas would take place, saying there has not been a change in either the FMLN's conditions or in its attitude of seizing power through arms. The president also said that the success achieved in Nicaragua between the contras and the Sandinist regime has occurred because the Sandinists can change their Constitution at will.

[Duarte] "A plan has been made to incorporate the contras into the democratic process under the premise that in Nicaragua there will indeed be a democratic process. That is why the contras have said: Give us a demonstration of the democratic process, and we will join it."

President Jose Napoleon Duarte feels the Sapoa agreement in Nicaragua has been possible because the Sandinist government can do as it wants with its Constitution, something he says is not possible in El Salvador.

[Duarte] "The Nicaraguan Government can do as it wishes with its Constitution. I cannot. I must abide by the Constitution, which says clearly that this is one territory. Therefore, we cannot say: This portion is not a territory of the Republic of El Salvador, and we will not allow either troops or government officials in it."

Duarte responded to questions from the press, reiterating that he has no intention of holding a dialogue with the FMLN, because it would be used to say and hear the same things as before.

[Duarte] "I could accept, if they were to say: We do not want more violence; we are willing to put our weapons aside and join the process. Then many things could be done to find that path in terms of security and an opening, as has been done with the FDR. Zamora and others have entered the country. However, this has not been easy. It took us 3 years of effort to get to that point."

At the inauguration of the final stage of construction of a hospital in Ahuachapan, Duarte also said that during the last year of his administration, a series of social, economic, and political plans forming part of his concept of peace will enter their final stages.

Rivas y Damas Comments

PA172228 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1752 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas said that President Jose Napoleon Duarte "must change his position" and accept a dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrillas to end the war in El Salvador.

In view of Duarte's refusal to resume the dialogue, Rivera y Damas has said that those holding this "position will have to take into consideration what the people want, if what the people want is really taken into account." He said Duarte's position "should be modified." [passage omitted]

In spite of the stagnation of the efforts to resume the talks and to end a civil war that is already in its 8th year and has resulted in 60,000 dead, Rivera y Damas has repeatedly said that the Sapoa agreements in neighboring Nicaragua could cause a change in the Salvadoran situation.

From this point of view and for the purpose of creating more opportunities for a political solution, the archbishop said today that the church will again propose a "national debate" that would include all sectors. Speaking to the media following Sunday mass, Rivera y Damas said that soon all the country's political forces will be invited to participate in the "national debate." [passage omitted]

FMLN Reports 'Execution' of ARENA Mayor-Elect

PA171602 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] The FMLN has executed the mayor-elect of San Isidro in Morazan Department. On repeated occasions we have warned that we will not allow the formation of criminal paramilitary bands promoted by the counterinsurgency plans through repressive local governments in order to massacre, persecute, and intimidate the population in a useless attempt to stop the revolutionary advance.

Despite repeated warnings about our decision to not permit local counterinsurgency governments in territories under our control or in dispute or anywhere in the country where the Armed Forces are unable to defend the territory, we report that Pedro Ventura, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] mayor-elect, continued to be involved in activities linked to the counterinsurgency plans in Morazan Department. For this reason, at 2300 on 14 April militia units entered San Isidro and proceeded to capture and execute that individual. Afterwards, the militia units distributed pamphlets explaining the reasons for the execution. They also staged a harassment attack on enemy positions in San Isidro.

By publicizing this action, we reiterate our firm decision to destroy any vestige of local government where the puppet Armed Forces are incapable of defending it. We will not permit the installation of instruments of repression such as civil defense, responsible for many of the murders of the 60,000 Salvadorans killed by the U.S. counterinsurgency policy. We will not permit this anywhere in the nation.

ARENA Threatens Boycott

PA171334 Paris AFP in Spanish 1740 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 16 Apr (AFP)—The rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) has threatened to not participate in the 24 April municipal elections because one of its members, who had been elected mayor on 20 March, was murdered.

San Isidro Mayor-elect Pedro Ventura, 55, was shot to death by the FMLN on Friday night. He is the first ARENA casualty after the 20 March municipal and legislative elections. [passage omitted]

After reporting Ventura's murder, ARENA campaign manager Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa stated that his party would not participate in the upcoming 24 April election in towns where the guerrillas did not allow voters to go to the polls.

Outraged over Ventura's death, Ochoa reacted by saying that because the solution of problems through democratic channels is inefficient "we have no other choice but to ask Salvadorans to rebel, and we are willing to lead the rebellion."

He added: "We are disappointed with President Duarte's government, with the Army High Command, and with some military commanders who are playing into the hands of the Christian Democratic Party, the U.S. Embassy, and the FMLN."

He stated: "The people have no other choice but to rebel against this evil regime."

Ochoa, ARENA's leader in four eastern departments, accused the Army High Command of being "evil and traitorous," and he added that "in the east we are willing to die with honor and not kneel." [passage omitted]

Briefs

1987 Economic Figures

A Central Reserve Bank report on El Salvador's economic behavior in 1987 states that the Gross Domestic Product increased 3 percent in comparison to 1986. According to the report, this year's credit will increase $600.14 million, a percentage of which will be assigned to private banking to increase production and employment levels. [Summary] [*PA151605 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Apr 88 PA*]

Guatemala

Cerezo Rejects Costa Rican Mediation Offer

PA151320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 14 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today President Vinicio Cerezo said that the Guatemalan Government has not accepted an offer by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to act as mediator in a dialogue with leaders of the URNG guerrillas.

In statements to foreign journalists, President Cerezo said that his Costa Rican colleague "had been informed, politely but firmly, that this country could not accept the offer of his good offices in promoting preliminary contacts, although Guatemala appreciated Arias' offer."

Cerezo has entrusted such contacts to the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), whose president, Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, has said a meeting will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, in May. [passage omitted]

Cerezo said "mediation is unacceptable because it would set preconditions for all parties and because it does not fall within the methods and conditions established in the Esquipulas peace plan" for talks and dialogue with opposition groups. [passage omitted]

Among the candidates mentioned by the URNG as possible "mediators" are Guatemala City Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrio, who has previously offered to serve in that capacity, and the Center for Political Studies (CEP), a private organization that has expressed its willingness to act as mediator.

Cerezo added that the Guatemalan Government would "have no objections" if Archbishop Penados wishes, as he has stated, to accompany the CNR when it travels to Costa Rica to talk with URNG representatives. [passage omitted]

In addition, Cerezo said that to find a common ground for discussion with guerrilla groups "who insist on holding a dialogue, we have stopped making it a precondition that they disarm, since that sounds like a surrender." [passage omitted]

The president added that "we must not forget we live under the rule of law and are engaged in a democratization process. We are all obliged to abide by the law and to see that it is enforced." Cerezo included refugees who wish to return to Guatemala in this category. He said: "If they have no legal cases pending in connection with political activities, they can simply return; but if there are trials pending, or if charges have been brought against them, they must accept amnesty to enjoy their rights." This was Cerezo's answer to a question about refugee leaders in Mexico who have announced they will return to Guatemala on 18 April. Government Minister Juan Jose Rodil has said these leaders "might be arrested unless they request amnesty." [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Talks Between Government, Contras Continue

Supply Procedures Agreement

PA152025 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1940 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government and contra special delegations have reached agreement on most of the pending points dealing with technical aspects in the seven cease-fire zones. Early this morning, the two delegations decided on the way the counterrevolutionary forces will be supplied with food, medicine, clothing, and food during the 60 days in which they will remain in the zones chosen for the cease-fire. The supplies will not include replacement of weapons and ammunition for the contras, as had been stated in the proposal that led to the suspension of the negotiations in Sapoa, on the Costa Rican border, on 8 April.

According to statements to Radio Sandino by Aristides Sanchez, the head of the contra delegation, there are still three or four pending issues. These will be addressed today at the highest level by the two sides in Managua. It has been decided that the supplies will be brought in by a neutral private company, the approval of which will be in the hands of the Sapoa agreements verification commission.

Security Zone Announced

PA160050 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0003 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The stretch of road where the Camino Real and Las Mercedes Hotels are located has been declared a security zone by the Ministry of the Interior.

The decision was made when it was learned that popular demonstrations were being prepared to protest the presence of the mercenary leaders in Nicaraguan territory.

The high-level mercenary delegation is expected very soon at the Augusto C. Sandino Airport.

Contra Arrival Delayed

PA160135 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0038 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Luis Cabrera from Las Mercedes Hotel]

[Text] We must mention the lack of punctuality on the part of the counterrevolutionary delegates. The representatives did not arrive on time at any of the meetings held in Sapoa, not even the first one... [changes thought] We are going to ask that you switch off at the international airport... [changes thought] As we were saying, they did

not arrive on time at the first meeting in Sapoa or the following technical meetings where point two was discussed. They failed to arrive on time yesterday and today as well. Of course the Nicaraguan Government delegation left quickly aboard a helicopter to be there by noon, at which time the meeting was scheduled. The contras did not arrive. They were delayed time and again until 1630 in the afternoon.

Now the other problem is that the delegation was scheduled to arrive at 1530 in the afternoon in Nicaragua. Nicaraguan Government representatives announced this last night. Companero Herty Lewites announced it in several reports. At this time, 1841 hours, they have not arrived.

In a late report, the counterrevolutionary radio station that the Costa Rican Government allows to operate in Costa Rican territory, violating the Esquipulas agreements—radio station Radio Impacto—has just announced in a report which we monitored that apparently a bomb scare delayed the LACSA [Costa Rican Air Line] flight. In this situation, under these circumstances, and knowing as we do the professionalism with which Costa Rican security operates, we believe it is another clumsy excuse. It is just another delay by the counterrevolutionary delegates. This is another delay and another truly irresponsible attitude. Because now the counterrevolutionaries say they do not know what time they will be arriving in Nicaragua. We hope to be able to contact the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport.

H. Ortega on Talks

PA160359 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0146 GMT 16 Apr 88

[News conference held by Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega with reporters at Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua—live]

[Text] [Ortega] The constitutional Government of Nicaragua, through this delegation that I head, is making an effort to comply, as it was ready to comply on 6 April, with the Sapoa agreement to hold the meeting to secure the definitive cease-fire. Therefore, we have come to comply with this Sapoa commitment. We know that the force of the CIA and the force of imperialism have made every effort to boycott the Sapoa agreements. Among these efforts they have managed to stall on some terms and on some periods. Nevertheless, the [Nicaraguan Resistance, RN] Directorate of the irregular forces, of the counterrevolutionaries, is definitely here today, albeit with the delays of which our people are aware. The important thing is that they are here. We have come with the willingness to work as long as necessary, for as many days as are necessary, to comply with our commitment to the Nicaraguan people and to the international community, to secure a definitive cease-fire, and to achieve peace for our peoples and avoid further bloodshed, all of which will culminate in the victory for which the Nicaraguan people have been struggling ever since the Reagan administration set out to destroy our revolution. This is the strategic victory that our revolution has achieved for several years, especially in the past few years. This victory rests on the shoulders of our peasants, workers, youths, and children, who have been martyred by this U.S. war of aggression against our country. This victory, in the military, political, and diplomatic fields and in the building of our democratic revolutionary process of mixed economy and political pluralism, allows us to come with the conviction that it is possible, that it is necessary, to secure a definitive cease-fire to avoid further bloodshed and permit this victory to be consolidated.

Therefore, responsibly, within the framework of the Sapoa agreements, and in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Sapoa agreements, we have come to this meeting with the conviction that reason must prevail, which is the reason upheld by our people and the peoples of the world, who have said: Enough with the policy of terrorism, the policy of interventionism, the policy of war, the terrorist policy that the U.S. Administration continues to promote. This policy is present in the irregular forces, in the mercenary forces who are seeking to boycott the Sapoa agreements, trying to boycott the efforts of the members of the Directorate and the members of the irregular forces who realize that it is time to obtain peace by securing a definitive cease-fire with the constitutional Government of the Republic of Nicaragua.

As the first point of these meetings, we will continue discussing with the counterrevolutionary leadership compliance with the demands that our people have made for the past several years in the wake of the first kidnappings against our civilian population—that they release all the people kidnapped by some units, especially those which most obey the orders of the CIA against our peoples, in keeping with the terrorist policy of the CIA and of the U.S. Administration.

So this will be a point we will always maintain as an initial demand in all the meetings we hold until they comply by releasing all the kidnapped victims of this U.S. policy of aggression against Nicaragua.

I repeat. Although they arrived late at the meeting, we are willing to initiate the sessions at once and work as late as necessary for as many days as necessary to comply with the signed agreements.

[Reporter] We would like to ask you...

[Ortega, interrupting] Let the foreign correspondents ask their questions first.

[Reporter] What are the other modus operandi points still to be discussed?

[Ortega] You people will learn the nature of these points during the course of the (?29) April meeting.

[Reporter] Could you give us some details? Of course, Matamoros has just given us some information, but I want to know about the corridors. Will these corridors permit communications with the government and access to the entire country by air, as well as permitting resupply?

[Ortega] More important than the details is the signing of the definitive cease-fire, which will make it possible for the unconventional forces to join the country's formal life. In this way, we will end this war fanned by the U.S. Government's aggressive policy. The details could be many, some of them dealing with the modus operandi. But what really counts is that we comply with what has been mandated.

[Cortes] Roberto Cortes of PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL. What meaning do you attach to this morning's meeting between the EPS and contras at Jinotega? Is it probable that more meetings like this one will be held, right on the battlefield?

[Ortega] Offensive operations have ceased. Several meetings between the unconventional forces and government authorities have occurred. This kind of meeting makes it possible for the counterrevolutionaries to truly become acquainted with the Sapoa agreements and the commitments for peace they must make if they truly want to act on this disposition towards peace that they have expressed. These meetings are regarded as fruitful, particularly for them, so they can learn the reality of the revolution and the peace process we have initiated in Sapoa, as well as the agreements we signed.

[Reporter] General, do you think it likely that a definitive cease-fire can be signed at this first meeting here in Managua?

[Ortega] We are concerned with the peace that our people so strongly demand. It is the irregular forces' duty to comply with this, which is mandated in the Sapoa agreements. The government delegation I head has come with a willingness to comply with this mandate, to sign a definitive cease-fire.

[Ibarra] General, this is Jose Rodolfo Ibarra of Channel 7, Costa Rica. Alfredo Cesar has just said the possibility of splitting the state-party-Army organization will be discussed. Will the government consider that?

[Ortega] What counts here is to achieve peace by complying with the Sapoa agreements. [Words indistinct] as to how this process should take place and other details as regarded by several governments. The Sapoa agreement allows for the participation in the national dialogue of the contra leaders as they comply with the Sapoa agreement. They can present their views on the national dialogue as it now happens. The various political forces discuss and propose their various political views.

[Reporter] General, [words indistinct]. The contras have just arrived in Managua. They said the very fact they arrived in Managua represents a great political victory for the counterrevolution and therefore a great political defeat for you. What do you think about this?

[Ortega] Our purpose is to achieve a definitive cease-fire. But to come here to Managua and regard it as a victory, well, it is his own personal opinion. The idea is not to come here as a publicity stunt, but to comply with a mandate. This is one of the points on which we have agreed in the spirit of the Sapoa agreements.

[Diaz Cuadra] Jose Diaz Cuadra of the HBC Television Network. Do you think it is possible to achieve peace as long as President Reagan is in power in the United States?

[Ortega] As long as the aggressive policies implemented by the Reagan administration are in effect, there will be the threat of greater aggressions, even intervention. However, given that the Directorate has taken the step of signing the Sapoa agreements, we believe that, yes, peace can be achieved immediately insofar as the rebel forces are concerned. Insofar as the aggressive U.S. policy is concerned, it is only logical that as long as the U.S. administrations pursue imperialist policies, the danger of aggression against our people will continue to exist. However, insofar as the counterrevolutionary forces are concerned, since they have taken the fundamental step of signing the Sapoa agreements, peace is in their hands. We have been complying and are prepared to comply to the end.

[Reporter] General, the contras have said that they are bringing some proposals for discussion to the talks opening today. Does the Nicaraguan Government have its own proposals in that regard? [passage indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, you have been learning about the Nicaraguan Government's proposals and positions. This is not the time to announce them again. We will continue expanding on the various proposals we have been developing throughout this process following the signing of the Sapoa agreements. Let us get on with Cabrera [not further identified]. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] General, we want to ask you about some statements by some contra representatives that we do not understand. They apparently want to hold partial talks, but the government is talking about comprehensive talks. Can you explain what comprehensiveness means in the discussion of the Sapoa agreements? Also,

what is your opinion on the great pressures exerted today by large sectors of the Nicaraguan population who oppose the presence of members of the counterrevolution on Nicaraguan soil?

[Ortega] Of course, the presence of these forces is a bitter pill for our population to swallow. Our people will assimilate it, and applaud it, too, little by little, to the extent that the fundamental objective—which is peace—is achieved. Therefore, as long as [words indistinct] achieve peace and the U.S. Administration continues pursuing its aggressive, undermining, and obstructionist policy and the CIA continues trying to undermine those agreements, our people must keep on the alert and constantly demonstrate their repudiation of this policy.

With regard to their [the contras] proposals and interpretation of the agreements, well, those are their positions. Ours have been clear in that this is not an attempt to get some rest and then to continue murdering our people. The question here is to look for all formulas that will permit us to end this war, which is what our people deserve and seek. Therefore, we will continue to work and to look for aspects that will allow us to achieve this major objective.

[Reporter] A last question, General. [Words indistinct] among the military actions that have taken place after the signing of the Sapoa agreements, can some of them be regarded as actions to boycott the treaty or are they instead accidental actions resulting from a lack of knowledge of the agreements?

[Ortega] There have been several clashes, but in reality we have considered them minor with regard to the cease-fire objectives. I have been informed of plans and attitudes on the part of certain elements, especially in Honduras, who are attempting to stage provocative actions to thwart the peace effort we have initiated with the Sapoa agreements.

RN on 'Warmup Session'

PA160517 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0424 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report by Luis Cabrera from the Camino Real Hotel in Managua—live]

[Text] The first round of negotiations at the Camino Real Hotel has concluded today. The meeting lasted approximately 2 hours, during which they discussed the manner in which they will work in the coming days.

Reliable counterrevolutionary sources spoke of Monday for the meeting, that is, that it would take place on Saturday, Sunday, and possibly Monday. One of them told us that they have a plane reservation for the LACSA flight on Monday. But it is possible, they say, that this may extend until Tuesday. One must remember that this may last until Tuesday. The counterrevolutionaries arrived on a chartered flight, so that they could order it to come back on Tuesday.

It was agreed today that the work mechanisms will be as follows: They will meet every day from 0900 to 1200, at which time they will break for lunch. They will return at 1400 until 2100. That is, they will work approximately 10 hours.

A few minutes ago the counterrevolutionaries held a news conference during which they said tonight's meeting was a brief warmup session and that they have come with the spirit of signing the agreements. However, during the news conference there were some gaps that did not satisfy the information needs of the national and foreign newsmen accredited to the press room of Las Mercedes Hotel. For instance, when asked why Aristides Sanchez, one of the signatories of the Sapoa agreement who has been directing the technical military meetings in Sapoa, was not here, they said he had been there in Sapoa until the morning hours and therefore was apparently excused for not being in Managua.

Asked why Tono and Fernando had not come, two responses were given. In one Calero said that they were free to designate whomever they deemed advisable and that that is why the counterrevolutionaries known as Jackson and Indio were chosen. However, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, on responding to another question in the same vein, gave the impression that there is a problem among the counterrevolutionary leadership. He said that nobody is obliged to come. Whoever does not want to come does not come, he said when asked if it was true that Tono and Fernando had not wanted to come. Yesterday in Sapoa during our broadcasts we interviewed one of the contra leaders, Omar, who is here at the Camino Real Hotel. He said there are internal problems and that some military chiefs have serious problems with the civilians, so to speak.

Another of the contra spokesmen said that there were more than 20 points that had been discussed in Sapoa, which established some agreements, but that there were some four to five points pending, including the definition of the neutral organization, the jurisdiction, and the matter of the mines.

Meanwhile, Frank Arana, another of the contra spokesmen, told us that on Monday they plan to meet with Cardinal Obando and with the officials of the newspaper LA PRENSA at the only two places where they—by petition—have been authorized to meet on Monday, as he confirmed.

This has been the information. The first round of talks here has concluded with a delay. The delay in the arrival of the counterrevolutionaries prevented the meeting from beginning at 1600 as scheduled. There have been differing versions of events. Today Calero spoke of

technical problems. His radio spokesman in Costa Rica mentioned a bomb scare on their aircraft, but nothing definite was learned on that subject.

RN's Cesar on Meeting

PA162254 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2109 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate member Alfredo Cesar said that the government and the RN have virtually set the limits and sizes of the enclaves where the rebels will be concentrated and have decided on "almost all the modus operandi points."

The anti-Sandinist leader stated that the high-level delegations met this morning to discuss the "points that were left pending" at the technical commission's meeting in Sapoa, located 4 km from the Costa Rican border.

Cesar, who arrived yesterday in Managua with a large "contra" delegation, explained that the high-level delegations "want to discuss all the pending points to end the Sapoa chapter."

Cesar added that after the delegations end their discussions on the "modus operandi" (rebel communications, supply, and transportation), "we will start the second chapter, which covers freeing prisoners and the participation of the contras in the national dialogue."

He noted that the "most important topics" to be covered at the high-level meetings will deal with attaining a definitive cease-fire.

According to the Sapoa agreements, 50 percent of the (714) prisoners will be released immediately after the "contras" enter the agreed-upon enclaves, and 8 anti-Sandinist leaders will join the national dialogue between the government and the civil opposition. The Sapoa agreements were signed by the rebels and the Sandinists on 23 March.

Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said "we do not know if a cease-fire, a fundamental matter to end the war, will be discussed this afternoon or tomorrow."

Tinoco said that the government is interested in continuing the meetings for as long as possible, but that the rebel delegation "had stated that they could not remain in Nicaragua after Monday, 18 April."

'Easing of Tensions'

PA170018 Paris AFP in Spanish 2228 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Apr (AFP)—Sandinist and Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) spokesmen noted that "an easing of tensions" prevails in the final Nicaraguan cease-fire negotiations, which began in Managua on Friday and will continue until Monday.

RN Directorate member Alfredo Cesar stated to the press after the morning meeting ended that "the ice that existed during the first Sapoa meetings is no longer there." The Sapoa meetings took place between 21 and 23 March.

Cesar, former Nicaraguan Central Bank president who occupied that position from 1979 to 1982—the first 3 years of the revolution—noted that the RN "has come to work toward the total achievement of liberty and democracy in Nicaragua and not to negotiate a power quota with the present Sandinist government." He added that discussions on "modus operandi" details "have almost ended," and that "we will start to discuss the most important aspects of the negotiations this afternoon."

A few minutes after Cesar spoke to the press, Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco stated that his government "is not looking for the contras to surrender."

Tinoco added: "We want to resolve the conflict in political terms and in terms that will satisfy all. However, we note that these negotiations are defeating U.S. Government policies." He also noted that the U.S. plan to destroy the Sandinist revolution "has failed strategically."

Regarding "modus operandi," Tinoco reported that they have agreed to leave this subject "aside for some time" if they do not reach an agreement.

He noted: "We are convinced that as we advance in the discussion of central issues, 'modus operandi' will be settled because of the substantive agreements that will be reached." [passage omitted]

Tinoco on Session

PA170344 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0117 GMT 17 Apr 88

[News conference held by Press and Information Minister Manuel Espinoza and Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco with unidentifed reporters at Las Mercedes Hotel's Press Room in Managua—live]

[Summary] [Espinoza] "A member of the Nicaraguan Government delegation will read a declaration from our delegation and then he will answer any questions from the reporters."

[Tinoco] "Well, comrade reporters, this afternoon we completed a working session between the delegation of the constitutional Government of Nicaragua and the delegation of the Nicaraguan Resistance." "We made progress in the discussion of the first point in the two-point agenda that we have for this period of sessions. This first point concerns the modus operandi and the zones."

As you know, at some time in the future we will have to begin fully discussing the final cease-fire. However, this afternoon we decided that before we end tomorrow we will make an effort to summarize, in writing, all the aspects that we have been discussing today so we can advance to the other points that are pending.

"I think the meeting has proceeded normally. Certain positions were confirmed. We have found points of agreement in other areas. However, I would say that it was basically a very productive day.

Do you have any questions?"

[Reporter] Can you tell us what your differences and points of agreement were?

[Tinoco] "As you know, it has been a practice throughout these meetings not to give any details while the meetings are being held. This is why I cannot give you any details. However, I can tell you that, basically, we have started off from the same positions that they [the contras] have been maintaining all these days. [sentence as heard] I can also tell you that much progress has been made."

[Question indistinct]

[Tinoco] "The Nicaraguan Government's attitude is logical and responsible and is in accordance with its obligation to give security to the contra delegation. It must be conceded that it is impossible and that, aside from impossible, it is illogical for them to want to move around here like a group of tourists. This is a group that [words indistinct], which has so far been an instrument of a U.S. policy that has resulted in 50,000 or 40,000 victims in this country, where there are thousands of people affected by the death of relatives, dear ones, and friends, and it is not a matter of coming to Managua overnight and then to begin visiting anyone they want. We have explained this to them clearly. The responsibility for their security is not up to them, because, if something happens to them—if someone [words indistinct] and wants to do something to them—the Nicaraguan Government will be blamed for it. [Words indistinct] that it was planned by the Nicaraguan Government.

"Consequently, we have told them that although we are in a process of an ongoing national reconciliation, these are only the first steps. They cannot try to act as a political party when they are still a military group that is up in arms against the government. In addition, there are thousands of deaths amid all this."

This is not a point that they have understood. They have handled this matter as a political argument. They say that they are prisoners.

"However, the truth is that the government has behaved seriously and responsibly. We agreed that they can visit LA PRENSA and bishops of the Episcopal Conference who wish to receive them. We will have to adopt all the pertinent security measures needed for that. I think that all the other things that have been said [words indistinct] give me the impression that they are [words indistinct] propaganda. It is obvious that this is not a normal situation. This situation we are facing is not normal, and we must watch over their security."

[Reporter] "Mr Tinoco, I understand that the contra delegation will visit the Episcopal Conference and the newspaper LA PRENSA at approximately 1600 on Monday. [Words indistinct] So, basically, there is only tomorrow to [words indistinct], not only the pending aspect of the modus operandi and the enclaves, but [words indistinct] substantive aspects of the negotiation. [Words indistinct] it will not be possible to finish the entire package. Will there be a Managua II?"

[Tinoco] "We have been insisting that either of the two activities that we agreed they could carry out be done during hours that are not working hours so as not to delay this peace effort [words indistinct], which interests all Nicaraguans. We have maintained that the main objective of this visit was to try to reach an agreement with the government and that, therefore, to use the working hours for another, unrelated type of political activity would mean a delay in achieving the main objective: peace.

"I think that if there is a political willingness and an ability to reach a decision, then we must make substantial progress in the main goal of this meeting, which is to reach a final cease-fire. I think that if there is a political willingness and if we work extra hours and do everything possible, it is probable that we will be able to advance in the attainment of a definitive cease-fire.

"I repeat, the objective of this meeting is to try to achieve peace. To achieve peace means that these counterrevolutionary rebel forces must join the country's peaceful and political life. If there is a political willingness, it is possible to make significant progress on a series of operational aspects of that transitional period. Therefore, this is our hope. We will work hard in that regard to advance along those lines."

[Question indistinct]

[Tinoco, in English] I think that we are going to talk about the two basic aspects of this meeting. "The Nicaraguan Government is ready to discuss, the Nicaraguan Government is ready to agree on a final cease-fire agreement."

[Reporter] This afternoon, a group of contras said that they will not seek amnesty because they have committed no crime. What is your opinion on this?

[Tinoco] That is one of the matters that will have to be discussed. Obviously, the Esquipulas and the Sapoa agreements make this concept implicit. The basic thing is for them to show that they are willing to join the country's political life.

[Reporter] Do you feel that the Nicaraguan Resistance military delegation is sufficiently representative?

[Tinoco] We will see during the talks if it is possible for us to make significant progress.

[Reporter] "Commander Ortega has said in the past that if rebel representatives came to Managua, they would be arrested."

[Tinoco] "They would be what?"

[Reporter] "Arrested. Commander Borge said a few months ago that the day they return [words indistinct] and they have returned yesterday. What is the government saying now?"

[Tinoco] "I believe that this return is taking place in the framework of the Esquipulas agreements. It is obvious that if a contra leader with a pending legal case comes here outside the framework of the Esquipulas agreements, he will be taken to court. But we are functioning here based on an agreement. Thank you."

Calero: 'Little Progress'

PA170410 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0244 GMT 17 Apr 88

["Exclusive" interview with Adolfo Calero, member of the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, Directorate, by unidentified reporter at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Calero, the round of talks scheduled for this Saturday has ended. May we know what was the result of today's talks?

[Calero] We met today from 0900 until 1800. I actually feel that little progress has been made; that we worked on the modus operandi of the zones, but reached no conclusions. We simply held discussions. Both sides are making summaries, and I feel that we have gone backward instead. I do not feel progress has been made, and the Sandinist regime will have to show more flexibility, more understanding, more willingness.

On the other hand, there have been some shameful instances of gross provocation on the part of progovernment newsmen against members of our delegation at Las Mercedes [Hotel]. What is worse, this was against women who are part of our delegation.

Moreover, we have been confined to the Camino Real Hotel—where we are now. The only visits we have made outside this establishment are one last night to the nearby Las Mercedes Hotel to talk with newsmen, and another one today during the daytime. We had asked to be allowed to attend the mass that the cardinal will officiate tomorrow at La Sierrita at 1100, and our request has been denied. We had felt that attending this mass—which is a Nicaraguan tradition—for the sake of national reconciliation was an opportunity to show progress and good intentions. However, such progress and good intentions have not been demonstrated.

We were offered a mass here at the hotel. In truth, we feel that there is no reason why a priest should come to us as if we were ill or in custody. The appropriate thing would be for us to go to church.

[Reporter] What reason has the Sandinist regime given for keeping you from (?attending) La Sierrita or from going to La Sierrita to attend mass on Sunday?

[Calero] What is surmised makes no difference; what is surmised makes no difference, [repeats himself] because what is surmised may not be the truth. One must look at the simple fact that we are not allowed to go, to attend, to participate in Cardinal Obando y Bravo's mass.

[Reporter] What message can you give to the freedom fighters?

[Calero] Well, that the struggle for Nicaragua's freedom continues; that this struggle will not die down; that we have come to Managua, despite the risks entailed, to seek freedom and democracy for Nicaragua through political means. We will insist on resorting to these means—which is what is keeping us busy at the moment. We have not reached any conclusions. We must continue to be on the alert, now more than ever, and we must always remember that the meetings we have been holding are the result of the sacrifice of thousands of Nicaraguans, some of whom have lost their lives, and of those who are ready to sacrifice their lives to bring freedom to our homeland.

Government Presents Proposal

PA171830 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 17 Apr (AFP)—It has been officially announced in Managua that today the Sandinist government presented a "reasonable and flexible proposal, which could lead to an agreement for the definite end of the war in Nicaragua," to the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate.

General Humberto Ortega, head of the government delegation to the peace negotiations that began in Nicaragua on Friday, said: "We believe it is an overall and reasonable proposal."

At Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua, Gen Ortega announced that the two sides agreed on a recess this morning to let the RN analyze the government proposal.

However, Gen Ortega avoided giving details of the proposal, because the government decided not to release it to the 400 newsmen who are covering the talks until the RN studies it.

Further on Proposal

PA171956 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1906 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Nicaraguan Government presented another definite cease-fire proposal to the contras in order to break the deadlock in the negotiations that began Friday evening at a hotel in Managua.

General Humberto Ortega, chief of the government delegation and defense minister, labeled the proposal "constructive and reasonable" and said he was certain it could lead to "a negotiated settlement" between the two parties.

At a news conference, Ortega avoided giving more details about the document submitted to the contras this morning and said the meeting has been suspended until 1600 (2200 GMT) to give the rebel delegation time to study it.

Humberto Ortega warned that the Reagan administration and the contra sectors closest to it "are determined to make the negotiating process begun in Sapoa fail," but he claimed to be convinced that "these boycotting efforts will fail."

In response to reporters' questions, Ortega said "it is logical" to have contradictions among the rebel forces, and even "pressures and threats" to members of the leadership who are negotiating in Managua.

Ortega expressed "concern" over the absence of high-level military leaders in the Resistance delegation, who nevertheless took part in the technical negotiations that were held in Sapoa to agree on the size and location of zones where the rebel forces must gather and their system of supply and security.

Humberto Ortega said, however, that he believes in the decisionmaking capacity and authority of the members of the RN Directorate attending the Managua talks. Those Directorate members are Adolfo Calero, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Azucena Ferrey, and Alfredo Cesar.

The two sides agree that there has been very little progress in the negotiations, but they both avoided giving clear details on the points of disagreement.

There is no agreement on the zones yet, although this issue was discussed by the military commissions for 7 days in Sapoa and seemed to have almost been settled.

The document signed by the government and the RN on 23 March established a 60-day truce and the relocation of approximately 5,000 anti-Sandinists to the special zones during the first 2 weeks of April.

The document also established that immediately after the arrival of the rebels in the special zones, the government would release half of its "contra" prisoners and that eight contra political leaders would join the national dialogue.

The document also established that while this was happening, the top-level commissions headed by Gen Humberto Ortega and Adolfo Calero would continue the negotiations to attain a definite cease-fire agreement.

From the statements made by Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victo Hugo Tinoco and Gen Ortega yesterday, one can infer that the government is now proposing a single process to attain a definite cease-fire, which would mean that the lack of an agreement on the details of the zones would not block negotiations.

RN: Proposal 'Setback'

PA172353 Paris AFP in Spanish 2215 GMT 17 Apr 88

[By Ernesto Ramirez]

[Excerpts] Managua, 17 Apr (AFP)—The talks between the Nicaraguan contras and the Sandinists on a permanent cease-fire hit a snag this afternoon when the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) objected to a proposal from the Managua government.

Adolfo Calero, the contras' political leader, said during a news conference that Managua "is not speaking about the points (such as democratization) that would eliminate the roots of the conflict shaking Nicaragua." [passage omitted]

Today's talks were interrupted in the morning and resumed at 1600 (2100 GMT). The two sides are speaking face-to-face about the ways to reach a permanent peace accord.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, another member of the rebel leadership, has said the government proposal calls for the two sides to reach an agreement on the means for a "permanent cease-fire." But the RN, he said, believes such an agreement at this point would mean "skipping steps" envisaged in the preliminary agreements for the suspension of hostilities signed in Sapoa during the 3d week of March.

Meanwhile, Adolfo Calero said he believes a new date will have to be set to continue the negotiations. By saying this, he gave the impression that not too much progress has been made during the round of talks that began Friday.

Azucena Ferrey, another member of the RN Directorate, said "the signing of a permanent cease-fire agreement and the start of a democratization process must take place simultaneously."

The immediate future of the negotiations is uncertain today. This opinion seems to have been confirmed by Calero, who, when asked about differences among the RN, said: "Even we are having our doubts about Sapoa" (where an agreement was signed with the Nicaraguan Government on 23 March).

One of the points the rebels emphatically reject is the Sandinist demand that the technical talks on the zones be linked to the negotiations for a permanent end to the war. Chamorro said: "They want us to be left without any kind of supplies until a permanent agreement is reached, and this is unacceptable."

Alfredo Cesar cautioned that the Sandinist proposal includes "points that are dangerous" to the negotiations. Calero thinks the proposal is a "setback." The rebels have stated: "We do not trust the Sandinists. Who will guarantee to us that if a new government emerges after the agreement is signed, the Army will not carry out a coup d'etat?" [passage omitted]

Managua has called for the extension of the 60-day truce until 1 July. The truce has been in effect since 1 April. Managua has also said it will guarantee the arrival in the zones of relatives of the contras, the local and international media, and medical personnel, as well as of representatives of neutral organizations. The official proposal also proposed a 1-month period, beginning 1 June, for the reincorporation of contra troops into civilian life.

Alfredo Cesar, an RN leader, has said that despite differences of opinion between the two sides, "we are ready to continue negotiating for a peace agreement."

Cuadra on Negotiations

PA180434 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 Apr 88

[News conference held by Vice Defense Minister Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo with unidentified reporters at Las Mercedes Hotel in Managua—live]

[Summary] [Cuadra] "On this occasion I want to inform you about what has been happening today in this continuation of the Sapoa talks [words indistinct].

"In the first place, as you know—because this has been explained broadly—the Nicaraguan Government has presented a proposal that contains all the aspects having to do with the Sapoa process. This proposal by the Nicaraguan Government was drafted taking into consideration important elements of what has been discussed. The proposal also took into consideration the work of the special delegations, which worked for many hours during all these past days in an effort to produce a proposal the counterrevolutionaries would find satisfactory. The proposal considers how to resolve the main problems the counterrevolutionaries presented when the special delegations were working: the security of their forces and supplies.

"After having resolved the fundamental aspects of these two main concerns of the counterrevolutionaries and taking into account that the time set by the Esquipulas process is running out, as well as other political pressure situations that have erupted as a result of the Sapoa agreement, we, in compliance with the Sapoa agreement, went to work on a proposal that would deal with the technical aspects of resolving the problem of the zones. This includes their location, size, and humanitarian supplies. This would firmly and definitely promote progress in what represents, in the Nicaraguan Government's opinion, the main, essential objective of the Sapoa process: an agreement on a permanent cease-fire that will end the war.

"This has been the objective, the intention, and the will that the government stated in the proposal it handed this morning to the counterrevolutionaries.

"As a first activity today, the Resistance delegation discussed and studied the document or proposal presented by the Nicaraguan Government. This is a negotiable proposal, not a final offer. We resumed the dialogue at 1600. In the morning, around noon, they presented a technical proposal that contained, basically, the same aspects contained in the original proposal [words indistinct] after the work of the special delegations began.

"This afternoon, there were discussions and efforts to make progress on some aspects of a general nature that have nothing to do with the objective of the meeting, such as proposals related with a timetable for democracy in Nicaragua and suggestions not only for the arrival of irregular troops in the zones, but also for the economy and for the country's social and political life.

"Too much meeting time was taken in discussing matters of a general and political nature that have no direct relation with the points of discussion on the table. An integrated proposal from the government and a partial proposal from the counterrevolutionaries on the technical aspects are on the table."

"The intention of these forces is to seek a truce [words indistinct] to prepare the conditions and the means to receive the humanitarian aid approved by Congress."

"There are several circumstances that have made it evident, in this afternoon's talks, that the sole purpose of the counterrevolution is to gain time; for instance, their reluctance to commit themselves publicly in front of witnesses and in front of the international community in

a document that will contain the basic elements to end the war has only confirmed the government's suspicions and made it even more suspicious as to the Resistance's ultimate motives.

"For this reason, the government has decided to issue a single document, a single concept. In other words, that document must reflect in a clear and concise manner [words indistinct] the purpose and the date of the final cease-fire that will put an end to the war.

"As for their not wanting to commit themselves in a document, because they feel it is too early, or too premature, and for this type of action [words indistinct] political willingness to end the war, the government finds it even more suspicious because there are very strong pressures trying to tilt the balance in favor of war. There are strong pressures that are trying to make this into a sort of rest, a vacation from war, so their forces will get a break."

"Nevertheless, the talks continue. The Nicaraguan Government's delegation is doing its utmost to discuss the main issues and not lose time on side issues. We hope that during the time left, we will reach an effective agreement that, on the one hand, will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Nicaraguan Government and, on the other hand, will fully satisfy the legitimate concerns of the rebel forces about their security and the guarantee that they are going to receive their humanitarian aid."

[Reporter] If no agreement is reached for a permanent cease-fire, would the government be willing to sign another truce agreement?

[Cuadra] "We are making efforts to simply reach an agreement in the meetings and in today's round of talks. We trust that due to the fact that we are meeting with the majority of the contra leadership, there will be, at a given time, the possibility of reaching a final agreement in these negotiations.

"We would have to discuss later what would happen if the 60-day deadline expires. It is a bit too premature to give an opinion about that. We are sure that the Nicaraguan Government—despite the fact that there are difficult moments in any negotiation—will not abandon the spirit, decision, and confidence that these negotiations will have a happy ending [words indistinct] the requirement and concern of the Nicaraguan Resistance and the government that are negotiating here."

[Reporter] "General, you said the counterrevolution seems to want a truce. In your opinion, what would be the advantage for the rebels to have this truce and then resume the struggle?"

[Cuadra] "It is evident—not simply likely—that they are seeking a truce. This has been the trend yesterday and today. They have explicitly said that they want a truce.

"Ever since the negotiations of the special delegations started, they keep mentioning the word truce. Today, in these high-level negotiations, it has become more evident that they want a truce.

"What is the advantage of a truce? Undoubtedly, a truce would not let them win what they have not won in the battlefield in these years of war. Undoubtedly, this truce would not place them in a situation that would be different for them. The correlation of forces would not change in a strategic manner. It is evident, however, that a truce would allow them to (?get reinforcements), reorganize their forces, rest, get fed, and so forth. It allows them to have certain tactical advantages. Above all, these individuals who insist on a truce are seeking it as a way to [words indistinct] their political and international situation and the possibility of a resumption of the military aid through a congressional approval [words indistinct]. In other words, as long as they have the approval of humanitarian aid only, they stop the war, rest, and take advantage of the humanitarian aid to prepare the right conditions. They harbor the hope that Reagan will again succeed in getting the U.S. Congress to vote for military aid to continue the war. This is the goal of those who want a truce to rest. The want a truce to regain their strength.

"It is clear to us that, even if they rest and get humanitarian aid, and even if they again get military aid, this will not change the military correlation of forces at this point. They are not going to win, in the military sphere, anything they have not won so far. They will not cease to be a rebel force. They will not cease to be a terrorist force."

"The Nicaraguan Government will not break the Sapoa agreement. Proof of this is the Nicaraguan Government's decision to make a proposal aimed at reaffirming the Sapoa agreement and not at breaking or taking advantage of the Sapoa agreement, or at taking tactical or political advantage of the Sapoa agreement.

"Some people say this is a race against time. This is true. The Sapoa agreement established a timetable set by mutual agreement, and this timetable is fairly tight. We have clearly defined time limits that have already been moved up quite a bit [words indistinct]. For this reason it is necessary that the two sides in the negotiations state their political will as soon as possible."

[Reporter] "Major General, when the contras came out of the meeting at noon, they argued that by linking the permanent cease-fire to the technical aspects, the government was trying to force them to surrender through hunger. In fact, Adolfo Calero said that was blackmail by the government. They argue that they are unable to receive their aid [words indistinct] because they say an effort is under way to make them surrender through hunger. What is your reaction to this?"

[Cuadra] "At no time must it be thought that the government is trying to play tricks or place obstacles so that the contras die of hunger or so that before they die of hunger, they stop fighting and turn themselves in to get some food. That is not the case. It is not the government's aim. Of course, that is false because of two very simple reasons: First, the government proposal establishes that a new effort must be sought. Our overall proposal includes the possibility of reaching a new agreement that would result in the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid. In addition, the government delegation told the contra delegation that it would be flexible about those points.

"Second, it is false because, in fact, in contacts made with some of their forces, we have begun to give food to some of these forces."

Chamorro, Calero on Talks

PA180543 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0434 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Statements by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and Adolfo Calero, members of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate, to unidentified reporter following the evening session of talks with the Nicaraguan Government in Managua on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] [Chamorro] We did not reach an agreement. We defined the objectives for which the Nicaraguan Resistance is struggling. These are unrenounceable objectives that go with the peace process.

We view peace not as an end in itself. Peace without liberty is neither real nor lasting. We believe that for there to be lasting peace in Nicaragua, there must be some democratic changes in Nicaragua that the Sandinists have refused to accept so far. This time we went there reinforced by the presence of two humble commanders from the northern front. One of them is Commander Indio, who heads 800 peasants from northern Nicaragua. He eloquently spoke about the reasons why they are struggling and have taken up arms against this government. He told them that if there is no agreement, they are prepared to continue the struggle to the very end.

I believe this has been a positive meeting, especially the afternoon session.

[Reporter] In what sense, Pedro?

[Chamorro] Because the government, the Sandinist delegation, desisted from discussing its proposal and went into a conceptual and political discussion of the proposal that we, the National Resistance, are making. I think both sides were serious. This is why I believe the meeting was positive. We did not reach any agreement, however.

[Reporter] Here is Dr Adolfo Calero Portocarrero. Dr Calero, what was achieved at today's negotiations?

[Calero] Let us begin with yesterday, Saturday. Yesterday was a long, tiresome, and fruitless day. Instead of making progress, I felt we moved backward. Today, Sunday, the Sandinists arrived with a proposal that we cannot accept. Today we referred to it, saying that it was difficult to even discuss it and that it was moving us away from what was signed in Sapoa. We said that it was necessary to look again at the technical aspects because no progress had been made in that regard. The Sandinist proposal wants to put together different issues such as the technical aspects and the cease-fire. The proposal conditioned the technical aspects to the cease-fire, but the two are separate phases, according to the Sapoa agreement. Since one has to take place ahead of the other, they cannot take place simultaneously.

Today we also spoke about the need for democratization, a concept they did not mention in their proposal. It is clear that the concepts of cease-fire and democratization are linked to Esquipulas. They go together, and for this reason it is necessary to know what the democratization is that will take place simultaneously with the cease-fire.

I feel that we have not made too much progress in the days we have been here. There have been many differences. We still have tomorrow for talks. We are prepared to continue the negotiations. We affirmed this today. We also said early today during a news conference at Las Mercedes [Hotel] that we feel that both the letter and spirit of the Sandinist proposal contain a unilateral dictate, not a proposal to be discussed by the two sides. It is a proposal through which one of the sides gives orders to the other. This, of course, is totally unacceptable to us.

[Reporter] This evening Joaquin Cuadra said during a news conference that there are serious differences in the Resistance, because one group is opposed to war while another group insists on war, and this has resulted in division within the Resistance.

[Calero] We have said from the beginning that we are democrats. We have different opinions. It is no crime to have dissent among our people. There are people who could be more identified with Sapoa than others. When it comes to complying with Sapoa, however, we have been doing it. They, undoubtedly, are speculating about division within the Resistance, a division that does not exist. There may be different ways of thinking among democrats. We can think and have opinions. Those who are not democrats view this as a crime.

[Reporter] Joaquin Cuadra says the military headed by Enrique Bermudez is not interested in this dialogue.

[Calero] Mr Cuadra may say what he wants. The truth is that we have many years of being together in the Resistance. We will continue marching together. It would be fatal for the Resistance to allow different opinions to

turn into divisions. This has not happened and will not happen. You cannot expect the Sandinists to say that the Resistance is in perfect harmony all the time.

Contras, EPS Soldiers Meet, Urge Peace

PA160019 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Francisco Rodriguez in Cuatro Esquinas de Arcon, Pantasma, Jinotega Department; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] ...65 km north of the city of Jinotega. Everything seems to indicate that the war drums will stop beating soon, judging from the impromptu meeting that has been held by members of the EPS Pantasma Battalion and a task force of an operational commando unit.

A candid dialogue was held on the battlefield on Friday morning, 15 April, between contras of the Pedro Joaquin Gonzalez Regional Command, who were armed to the teeth, and First Lieutenant Carlos Molinares, chief of the Pantasma Battalion. The spokesman for the contras in this friendly meeting was Donald, who also gave his real name and said he was a unit commander of the Pedro Joaquin Gonzalez Regional Command. I am very impressed with this meeting because we are tired of so much fighting, he said under a beautiful guanacaste tree and amid the deafening chirping of crickets.

We are brothers, he said, while other contras embraced and fraternally exchanged greetings while still carrying their rifles. A reporter of Radio France Internationale, who was also very moved, said that this is the first time local newsmen—referring to this correspondent—were interviewing armed contras in person in the grim theater of war. Here is a report on the dialogue between 1st Lt Molinares and contra commander Donald.

[Molinares] I am Carlos Molinares of the Pantasma Battalion. My position is the position of the Nicaraguan people. The idea and calling of the Nicaraguan is nothing more than to achieve peace, to achieve peace. The best way to achieve peace is through dialogue, through understanding. As mature men, as Nicaraguan men, as armed men, we have been [words indistinct]. This war rests on our shoulders, on us as armed men. For this reason, I think that it is necessary that we, here on the battlefield where we are... [changes thought] then we can reach agreement. We can reach agreement to achieve peace, to achieve a definitive cease-fire. [Words indistinct] and the real conviction that the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan people have a room for you to return to normal social life like all Nicaraguans. [passage omitted]

[Donald] [Passage indistinct] As I said, my name is Jonas. My alias is Donald. I belong to the (Roberto Garcia Peralta) task force of the Pedro Jose [as heard] Gonzalez Regional Command. The commander is Commander (Euclides). I am a unit commander. That is, my ideal is to [words indistinct] freedom to the Nicaraguan people and that our boys, the Sandinists and we, too, reach agreement to (?bring) peace and freedom to the Nicaraguan people.

As this boy, the 1st lieutenant, rightly said, this is the way we will offer freedom for peace, not only to the Nicaraguan people but to the world [passage indistinct]. [passage omitted]

We do not want any dictator in power. We want to be free and independent. [Words indistinct] to establish freedom and peace for Nicaraguan—for all Nicaraguans in general.

[Rodriguez] This meeting you have held between the counterrevolution and the EPS—are you going to carry this into effect in this sector? [sentence as heard]

[Donald] Right. We have understood this in today's dialogue. This has been my life until today. I have been fighting this battle since 1981, and not until today have I shaken hands with a Sandinist. We are brothers, but we did not realize it because of the war. [passage omitted].

Azucena Ferrey Reportedly 'Dismissed' by Group

PA181241 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1217 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Javier Reyes Report]

[Text] The Social Christian group in exile has dismissed Azucena Ferrey as its representative to the counterrevolutionary leadership. Azucena Ferrey is one of the four members of the Directorate negotiating in Managua. The same group has appointed Paco Fiallo, former Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, to replace her as the new representative of the Social Christian Party to the counterrevolutionary leadership. In 1982, Fiallo stole $80,000 from our embassy at Washington.

Azucena Ferrey is no longer the Social Christian Party representative to the Directorate. She will be replaced by Paco Fiallo, the former ambassador who stole $80,000 from our embassy in Washington in 1982.

[Announcer] Whom does Azucena Ferrey represent now?

[Reyes] We do not know who she is representing, or why she is here. Since she did not sign the Sapoa document, she will not be compelled to sign any other agreements as she no longer represents her group in exile, as they call it.

Jaime Morales Resigns From Contra Leadership

PA170247 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0031 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] We have a last minute report that Jaime Morales Carazo, who was a counterrevolutionary leader, has resigned from the counterrevolutionary leadership.

Morales Carazo, a Nicaraguan who [words indistinct] participated in the first meetings at Sapoa as chief negotiator. He is the man who kept in contact with Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

According to what we have just been told, he resigned in a letter which contained no explanation for his decision. Apparently some of the counterrevolutionary leaders do not agree with some of the decisions that have been adopted by Alfredo Cesar, our source here at Las Mercedes Hotel informed us a short while ago [words indistinct] Camino Real Hotel.

Arce Comments on Results of Failure of Talks
PA161858 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Speaking at the end of a CDS [Sandinist Defense Committee] event at Ramirez Goyena [not further identified] last night, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, said: If peace efforts fail between now and 30 May and we have to take up arms again, it will be to crush for good every single counterrevolutionary in this country by the end of this year.

More than 1,000 CDS coordinators, representing most of the country's neighborhoods, ratified the new national coordinator, guerrilla Commander Omar Cabezas. Referring to counterrevolutionary vigilance, Cabezas said it would be up to each customer; that is, in accordance with each neighborhood's particular situation.

Commander Leticia Herrera presented a report, which was complemented by remarks from more than 30 leaders. A general outline of CDS members activities was prepared. Commander Arce called on all CDS members to abandon personal interests and devote every effort to socialize the revolution's resources and learn to value them as their own.

[Begin Arce recording] We Nicaraguans need to treat our fellow Nicaraguans as brothers. We neighborhood residents need to be friends with each other. All of us should (?back) our CDS. The revolution's best defense is the people's solidarity and brotherhood toward one another, the socialization of the people's resources. We need to abandon the notion of mine and yours, and instead embrace the idea of ours. We have to delete the words yours and mine from our language and minds, but not by decree. Then we would not say: Look, somebody else's school is deteriorating. The school is ours, it is our children who go there. We might also refer to a MINSA [Ministry of Health] health center. But it is not MINSA's, it is ours; that is where we are treated. We would not say the city's park is deteriorating—whose park? The park is ours; it is where our children play.

Something similar happens with other problems. We have supply problems; not many products are imported. The idea is not for me to get smart to get more sugar or oil. It is our sugar, our oil. So the problem has to do with the fair distribution for the good of all through a neighborhood assembly. Some times we will get more, some times we will get less. The distribution will have to be done accordingly.

This is the result of [words indistinct]. This is what we expect. With this solidarity among the people, we will struggle greatly. Our enemies have been unable to defeat us with war, famine, threats, blackmail, or blockade. We are still here. As we said before, Reagan will leave the White House in January, but we will still be here. So who are we? We are not the FSLN, we are everybody, because we have a people's government here. And a government of the people is permanent, eternal. [applause]

We must now prepare for the new activities of the peoples power. Municipal elections are coming up, and all those who are against the Nicaraguan Government and revolution will exercise their right to participate and vote.

People who claim that peasants cannot produce and that capitalists of former times are better, those who claim that education in Nicaragua is bad, that private schools are better and that fees must be charged in schools; and those who say that hospitals do not operate properly and that it is better to go to doctors who charge for their services, they will want to be candidates for mayor, they will want to win a seat in the National Assembly at the next election, and they will pass laws that will not help the masses. We must therefore prepare for those municipal elections.

In addition to continuing to support the peace efforts, we must also be on a state of alert. The war has not ended. There is a cease-fire until 30 May. If negotiations do not work out, we will have to continue fighting, we will have to go on fighting, but not like we did before, because we cannot fight eternally. We cannot bear the economic and material consequences forever. If the peace efforts fail and we have to take up our weapons again after 30 May, we will fight to definitely crush every counterrevolutionary in Nicaragua in 1988. [applause]

If we must take up our weapons again, we will not talk about fulfilling the Patriotic Military Service quota. We will have to make every effort to paralyze many aspects of our social and economic life to go to the battlefield and end the nightmare of the war once and for all this year. If we have to do that, we will do it. We cannot spend the rest of our life at war with mobilized troops.

We currently have 80,000 to 100,000 men not only in the mountains but throughout the whole country, because we must be prepared for a gringo invasion from Honduras or from the sea. We are forced to place thousands of men in the antiaircraft squads, in tanks, etc.

Even with 100,000 men we have been unable to end the war. We are about to end it now. Well, we can very well double or triple the number of men, because, after all, we have 300,000 rifles in Nicaragua right now. [applause]

We cannot make this effort without human solidarity and without being united, however. That is the reason behind the CDS. FSLN members are not the only members. FSLN members are relatively few, but each FSLN member makes his presence felt.

We must all be prepared to face economic and social problems. We all live in some place in Nicaragua and therefore there is a place for each one of us in one single organization: the defense movement. We must all be CDS members and stop putting obstacles for others to be CDS members.

We trust that with the FSLN's effort to commit itself further to the CDS movement and under the leadership of Omar [Cabezas], we will attain that goal and we will achieve the worthy peace we all long for to start facing our underdevelopment problems, guarantee the revolution's ideals, and guarantee a free homeland without the need to die for it. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Says AID Plans 'Illegal'

PA180018 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2218 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 17 April]

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman sent letters to OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares and His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo charging that AID is trying to find illegal ways to supply aid to the contras in open violation of international law, the Esquipulas agreements, and the Sapoa agreement.

The foreign minister said the following in these letters: Point four of the Sapoa agreement stipulates that humanitarian aid will be allowed exclusively in agreement with Paragraph 5 of the Esquipulas II agreements and that this aid will be channeled through a neutral organization. In addition, Paragraph 5 of the Esquipulas II agreements states that the only aid allowed will be aid for repatriation or rehabilitation and necessary assistance so former members of rebel groups can be reintegrated into society.

To comply with the agreements, humanitarian aid should only granted when a process exists that will lead to the contras' reintegration into society. For this reason, the aid must be delivered only in the zones previously agreed upon for the relocation of the Resistance forces and once the verification commission has made sure the relocation has taken place.

The aid does not include those contras who do not agree to relocate to those zones. Within the framework of the agreements, the humanitarian aid will be exclusively distributed by the neutral organization agreed upon with the Nicaraguan Government.

In the case of the contras who are in Honduras, they will have to disarm and avail themselves of the amnesty. As soon as their refugee status has been certified, they will receive humanitarian aid through the aforementioned neutral organization.

We categorically reject charges by some AID officials that Nicaragua is allegedly hindering the return of 4,000 to 5,000 contras who are now in Honduras. This is gross disinformation intended to create a pretext for violating international law and delivering aid to the contras in Honduras who will not have disarmed and therefore would not be covered by the permanent cease-fire agreement.

The falsehood of the statements made by those AID officials is proved by the fact that since 9 August 1987, over 4,000 Nicaraguans have been repatriated from Honduras, according to figures submitted by [name indistinct], and that the amnesty law is fully in effect.

The Nicaraguan Government goes on record as being emphatically opposed to allowing Honduran or any other country's territory to be used for the AID maneuver of providing illegal assistance to Resistance members who are not fully committed to the process for a permanent cease-fire. This process includes relocation to the cease-fire zones and the establishment of a cut-off date for the process of reintegration into normal life, as stipulated in Paragraph 5 of the Esquipulas II agreements.

Within this framework, the delivery of food and basic products to the rebel forces is part of the process for a permanent cease-fire and not intended as part of a temporary truce. Any other interpretation would be in full violation of the principles agreed upon.

Nicaragua's constitutional government submits these considerations so the Sapoa agreements' verification commission can take the steps it deems necessary.

Issued in Managua on 17 April 1988

Pro-Sandinists Demonstrate at U.S. Embassy

PA170150 Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Apr (AFP)—Today approximately 500 Sandinist government sympathizers held a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in this capital to protest Washington's "interventionist" policy in Nicaragua.

While the rally was taking place, the government and the leadership of the Nicaraguan Resistance, which is supported by the Reagan administration, were negotiating in northern Managua to conclude an agreement to end the 7-year war in the country.

The demonstrators shouted slogans such as "Here and there the Yankee will die," and "We want peace with dignity."

The demonstration, which was held without incident, was called by the mothers of the "prisoners of war." It was also attended by several dozen people maimed in combat, who paraded in front of the embassy in their wheelchairs. [passage omitted]

Government Devalues Cordoba 10 Percent

PA162316 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2134 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 16 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—According to the Central Bank, today the Nicaraguan Government decreed a 10-percent devaluation of the cordoba beginning on Monday, 18 April. [passage omitted]

The official announcement says that as of 18 April, the rate of exchange of the cordoba to the U.S. dollar will be 11 to 1.

The Central Bank explained that Nicaragua currently has a "flexible" monetary policy that permits periodic adjustments of the currency in order "to not allow an overvaluation of the cordoba."

No explanation was given as to what exchange rates will be in effect in money exchanges or the parallel market beginning on 18 April. [passage omitted]

Panama

Banking Association President on Bank Reopening

PA151815 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Excerpts] Yesterday Panama Banking Association President Edgardo Lasso Valdez told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that if political conflicts in Panama are not resolved and the dollar supply is not guaranteed, the banks closed since 3 March "cannot reopen." Lasso said, "If we are not certain we are going to have a secure source that will supply dollars, we cannot reopen." He also warned that the banking system can be reopened "only with restrictions." The final date for this has not been determined yet.

Lasso explained that the National Banking Commission is still studying the restrictions for the banking activities and the matters regarding the "expectation" created by the possible reopening of banks.

"The public is expecting the reopening of banks, but as long as the political problems continue, it is impossible to reopen banks," Lasso said. He maintained that depositors want to "withdraw their deposits, because they have lost confidence." [passage omitted]

Lasso added that efforts are being made to obtain dollars from other sources, because "the U.S. sanctions are not against banks but rather against the National Bank."

The banker explained that with the closing of the banks, many banks have lost millions. Therefore, it is estimated that many banks could leave the country, "because now there are no guarantees for them to invest."

Lasso views as positive the possibility of promoting an international financial center where various strong currencies from other nations would circulate along with the dollar. However, he ruled out using Panamanian currency, because "it would cause the banking center to operate in Panama." [sentence as published]

There are 120 banks operating in Panama, of which 67 operate with general license to carry out local and international operations.

Limited Reopening Ordered

PA160455 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Today the National Banking Commission ordered that banks reopen beginning Monday, 18 April, exclusively to receive deposits and carry out interbank operations. By means of Agreement No 16-88 of 11 April 1988, the National Banking Commission has authorized the banks which have general licenses and whose operations have been suspended since 4 March 1988 to resume the receipt of deposits of all kinds in any form, both domestic and foreign, beginning on Monday, 18 April 1988. Each bank must adopt the pertinent measures according to its physical facilities and other characteristics, such as the needs of its clients to take care of the receipt of deposits. This includes arranging for the bank branches to operate totally or gradually, as permitted and demanded by circumstances. The measure adopted by the National Banking Commission does not yet authorize the reopening of banks or complete banking services to the public in general. Access to the banks will be on a restricted basis and the authorized operations will be carried out through the facilities available to each bank, such as drive-in tellers, autobanks, night deposit boxes, and other methods that conform to the physical installation and facilities of each banking facility.

At the same time, the National Banking Commission, through Agreement No 17-88 of 14 April 1988, authorized clearinghouses to resume the exchange of checks between banks, the payment of the resulting balances, and adopted the clearinghouse regulation. In conformity with these provisions, the meeting for the first exchange of checks received on Monday, 18 April, and Tuesday,

19 April 1988, will be held on Wednesday, 20 April 1988, at 0700 in the morning in the Bethania branch of the National Bank of Panama facility that normally functions as the clearinghouse. The approved regulation establishes that in the interior of the Republic clearinghouses will operate in Penonome, Aguadulce, Chitre, Santiago, and David. The checks for the areas of Colon, Las Tablas, and Sona will be cashed, returned, and processed in the clearinghouses of Panama, Chitre, and Santiago, respectively. The clearinghouses in the interior will resume their operations in conformity with the provisions established in the regulation.

Thus far the National Banking Association has not stated its stand on the National Banking Commission order that banks reopen on Monday, 18 April, exclusively to receive deposits and carry out interbank operations.

Association Chief Comments

PA181432 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 88 p A-1

[Text] The three representatives of private banks on the National Banking Commission recommended to that organization that any authorization for resuming receiving deposits should be linked to an announcement to the public—particularly to account holders—of when other public banking services will resume. This information was provided to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA by Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the Banking Association of Panama.

When asked if the resumption of deposits today, Monday, implies that bank customers can make payments from their accounts, Lasso Valdes said that Agreement No 16-88 establishes that only deposits may resume today, and, "furthermore, the National Banking Commission—through its most recent communiques to the people—has clearly stated that this measure does not authorize reopening the banks or providing complete public banking services."

As for announcing to the public when other banking services will resume, Lasso Valdes said "this decision and announcement is the responsibility of the National Banking Commission."

The Banking Association spokesman pointed out that there is no uniform method or schedule for the receipt of deposits, "nor is it the responsibility of the Banking Association of Panama to establish this, unless all member banks reach an agreement on this, and this has not occurred because it has not been necessary."

He added that at any rate, the most advisable thing each depositor should do is telephone his bank, "where he will surely receive instructions on what to do."

Lasso Valdes explained that the National Banking Commission is the official organization responsible for issuing regulations concerning the banking system. Agreement No 16-88 issued by the Banking Commission authorizes banks with general licenses to resume receiving and accepting deposits of any kind, both local and foreign, as of today, 18 April.

"Complying with that agreement, banks will receive deposits, an activity that was suspended on 4 March," the Banking Association president said, adding that "the public in general is not yet authorized to enter the banks."

CONEP, APEDE Leaders Comment on Dialogue

PA171632 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 88 pp A-2, A-23

[Text] Yesterday Alberto A. Boyd, Jr, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), rejected the starting point for a national agreement suggested by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency. Boyd pointed out that when "we agreed to Archbishop McGrath's mediation we did so on the basis of a statement issued by the bishops."

In statements to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, the reelected CONEP president ruled out that private enterprise will accept as the starting point for a national agreement the issues that Solis regards as basic points, such as repudiation of U.S. intervention in Panama's internal affairs and demand for compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the contractual obligations embodied in them.

After noting that private enterprise has accepted Archbishop McGrath's mediation, Boyd recalled that this position was based on the statement in which the country's Catholic bishops demanded the reinstatement of constitutional rule and General Manuel Antonio Noriega's resignation as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

How can we begin a negotiation without preconditions, like Solis says, when they (the government) have set a precondition of force—which was the elimination of the constitutional government—and have seized power by force, Boyd asked.

He reiterated that the private sector was going to participate in the dialogue under the premise that constitutional order be respected, which, in the opinion of the business leader, means that Gen Noriega agree that he was dismissed or retired and that Solis cease acting as chief executive.

According to Boyd, Solis made the statements about U.S. intervention in this Central American nation because "the United States does not recognize him as

Panama's head of state." He said the freezing of funds by the United States is in response to a request from Eric Delvalle, Panama's constitutional president.

Finally, Boyd said that the private sector foresees no resolution to the country's crisis if the political problem is not resolved.

Yesterday Alfonso Herrera y Franco, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE), said that one cannot think about a national dialogue as long as the freedoms established in our Constitution have not been reestablished.

He said that one can accept a dialogue with the sector that holds the weapons as long as it gives the other side all the means to permit it to express its views. "That is why a precondition for the dialogue is the reestablishment of all the freedoms being restricted to the detriment of the opposition," which at this time cannot protest peacefully or express its ideas in the media," Herrera y Franco added. [quotation marks as published]

The APEDE president said it is clear that Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega does not want those freedoms, so it would be ridiculous to believe that while he is in command of the Defense Forces his adversaries will be in an equal position to hold a dialogue in which all the sectors will really participate and not like the so-called "national dialogue" being held at the Atlapa Convention Center, which is not a loyal and decent confrontation, as should be any effort to save the country from chaos.

"As long as they insist on haggling over everything and on maintaining unequal conditions, we will be unable to begin a national dialogue," Herrera y Franco stressed.

Referring to the demand by the minister in charge of the Presidency to accept as a starting point for the dialogue a resolution condemning U.S. intervention in our country, Alfonso Herrera y Franco said that this aspect has no relationship with the dialogue because one must know how to interpret the U.S. intervention, which is not armed intervention or an occupation of the country but a recourse to which it has resorted and can explain.

PAPO Stand Outlined

PA171410 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Letter from Carlos Ivan Zuniga G., president of the People's Action Party (PAPO), to Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA publisher; dated 15 April]

[Text] Dear Mr Publisher:

In my position as president of the People's Action Party, I want to discuss certain reports that have appeared in your newspaper.

1. PAPO, just like other opposition parties, was invited to participate in the Atlapa talks [national dialogue coordinated by the People's United Front]. The party's Executive Committee unanimously decided on Monday to reject this invitation because it is a government-sponsored monologue.

2. PAPO is not participating in the proposed dialogue, which the church is mediating, because, among other reasons, it has not been invited. [sentence as published] We understand that some sectors have objected to our participation because we are not a legally registered party. In other words, they accept the fraud committed against us with regards to our party's registration. It seems that to these sectors we are entitled to fight for democracy and against the dictatorship. [sentence as published] To them it is okay to raid and shoot at PAPO offices and to confiscate our property. To them it is okay to have our secretary general arrested and arbitrarily imprisoned on Coiba, the penal island. To them it is okay to destroy our Radio Mundial and cowardly kidnap and beat its owner and many PAPO members. To them it is okay to constantly repress and imprison our PAPO vice presidents, leaders, and activists. To them it is okay for the PAPO president to be wounded by bird shot, kidnapped, and beaten by the government's criminal hordes. It is okay for that to happen to us. It is okay for us to be "cannon fodder." It is okay for us to be on the front lines. In these cases we are a party. However, we have no credentials to participate in a dialogue to decide the destiny of our fatherland. In spite of this opinion, PAPO, legally registered or not, will continue to be a protagonist in the country's life.

3. PAPO is a party of principles and it is an opposition party. It is not opportunist or adventurous. We fight for democracy and sovereignty. We condemn fraud, military usurpation, and any foreign intervention. All beneficiaries of the burdens of national and international political degeneration are historical adversaries of the Panamanian people and the great democratic crusade that began in June 1987.

4. A true national dialogue can only be held with the participation of all the forces that have been unselfishly fighting for the country's moralization. A dialogue that is elite-oriented or a dialogue of "notables" is a political recourse of the past that belongs in a museum. The dialogue that the people are demanding could agree on the formation of a provisional government and a constituent assembly. This assembly could discuss constitutional, economic, social, political, and cultural solutions. This dialogue would result in a new constitution and the adoption of measures to promote unity. These measures would be of an emergency nature to try to pull the country out of the abyss of this crisis. Of course, nothing can be started if the government continues insisting on its determination to crush public liberties.

In view of the national calamity we are experiencing because of militarism and economic aggression, PAPO

reiterates its intention to seek formulas for agreement with all the people's sectors to overcome the disaster and raise the banners of democracy and sovereignty.

Yours truly,

Carlos Ivan Zuniga G.

PAPO President

Arias Calderon on Intervention, Noriega

PA170103 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 2240 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Report on interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, by Homero Londono in Panama City; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] As we have already said in previous reports, the Panamanian people are already criticizing the military intervention in Panama of Cuban, Nicaraguan, Libyan, and Colombian guerrilla groups. The people say that they are training paramilitary groups that support Noriega and who go out and repress demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Contrary to what the Panamanian people believe, Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said that he does not agree with a military intervention to oust General Noriega and his followers. Arias Calderon said that the Panamanian people's reaction is a result of the desperation they feel because of the worsening crisis. Here is what he said:

[Arias Calderon] "I think that the people who think that way show the desperation they feel because of the tragedy we are experiencing and the intransigence of a man who is willing to sacrifice his people's well-being to remain in power."

Arias Calderon believes that the solution must be Panamanian and that the people should demonstrate in the streets peacefully. We asked him why U.S. military interference is always criticized in Panama, and yet the interference of the communists, either from Nicaragua, Cuba, Libya, or from Colombian guerrilla groups, is not. Arias Calderon said:

[Arias Calderon] "You are right in saying that this intervention is under way. This goes against the Panamanian people's interests. There is no doubt that Cuban weapons were introduced into Panama, that there was Libyan financing for Gen Noriega, and that there are signs of other credits received from communist countries. What constitutes the difference is that the latter interventions I mentioned go against the Panamanian people's wish for a change and for democracy.

[Londono] "Do you agree that Gen Noriega should be ousted but yet remain in Panama?

[Arias Calderon] "I do not think that it will be possible for him to stay. If he stays, he must face Panamanian justice and the country instead of becoming involved in Panama's reconstruction. I think it would be for Noriega's own good and, most certainly, for the good of the Panamanian people, if he would accept the exile offered him by the Spanish Government."

People's Party Leader on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD160314 Prague CTK in English 2006 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City April 15 (CTK correspondent)—The aim of the U.S. anti-Panamanian campaign is to prevent Panama from freeing itself of political and economic dependence and achieve a revision of the Panamanian-U.S. accords on the canal, General Secretary of the Party of the Panamanian People Ruben Dario Souza has told CTK.

These accords have become an obstacle to the United States militarist policy in the southern hemisphere as according to the agreements the United States should leave military bases in the Panama Canal by the year 2000. Washington needs to enforce a new government on Panama, which would help it fully control the country's political development and achieve the revision of the accords.

The United States has strategic points in the Panama Canal Zone, especially the spy and electronic centre on the Isla Galeta, the Howard Air Base, the Sherman Fort and the Clayton base.

Ruben Dario Souza said that in essence the U.S. aggression against Panama has already started. The U.S. interference did harm to Panamanian trade and finances, the economic situation is deteriorating day by day.

In this situation, the Panamanian people stand in defence of the national sovereignty. In the year 1988 U.S. units would meet strong resistance. Their aggression would result in great losses on both sides. That is why we appeal to the international public to intensify the campaign of solidarity and help prevent U.S. armed aggression, Ruben Dario Souza stressed.

Policemen Break Up Antigovernment Protest

PA162156 Paris AFP in Spanish 2118 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 16 Apr (AFP)—This afternoon the Panamanian police used bird shot, tear gas, and water cannons to repress approximately 3,000 people who were getting ready to participate in a demonstration against Panama Defense Forces General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The incidents, which are still going on, began at 1600 (2100 GMT) when the demonstrators were leaving the Perpetuo Socorro Church to head for the Don Bosco Church, on Ingenio Avenue in this capital, where they had planned to hold a rally.

The demonstrators reacted to police measures by erecting barricades and throwing rocks at the policemen. Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, was among the demonstrators.

This is the first serious outbreak of violence in Panama City since 16 March, when an attempt was made to carry out a military coup against Noriega.

Rognoni Says No Sanctions Against U.S. Firms

PA152207 Paris AFP in Spanish 2039 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 15 Apr (AFP)—The Panamanian Government will prevent sanctions against some 500 U.S. firms that received an order from the Reagan administration not to pay taxes, Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni stated today.

In statements to AFP, Rognoni said that "we will be flexible" with U.S. firms that abstain from paying taxes.

The U.S. Government recently prohibited transnational companies operating in this country from paying taxes as part of the pressures exerted by the U.S. Government to force the ouster of Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

According to official sources, Panama has lost about $1.4 million [figure as received] from retentions of canal payments, export restrictions, and freezing of dollars affecting the National Bank since 3 March. This has kept some 120 national and foreign banks paralyzed.

Meanwhile, today the opposition reiterated that it will only agree to a national dialogue if Gen Noriega relinquishes power.

Nonetheless, President Manuel Solis Palma asked the opposition "to repudiate U.S. intervention and to demand that the Torrijos-Carter Treaties be respected" as a condition to sitting down at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Certain Officials Cannot Resign, Freely Leave

PA160136 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] The Attorney General's Office has indicated that all fellow citizens who have held public positions involving administrative and judicial powers [mando y jurisdiccion] and have been responsible for handling public treasury funds cannot resign their positions and should not feel free to leave the country. Security agents at the international airport have categorical instructions in this regard.

Agriculture Minister on Staples Production

PA151559 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Statement by Hirisnel Sucre, agriculture and livestock development minister; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] As an immediate measure to help national production, we will start implementing a contingency plan for agricultural and livestock production, especially for basic staples such as rice and corn; and we will pay attention to poultry and pork. We will also maintain the production of other basic staples; they will also receive attention within the plan. The basic objective of this plan is to take advantage of the first rains that begin this month. If we fail to do this, damage will be irreversible.

Therefore, through this means, I say to national producers that the national government is taking all necessary measures to provide them with the necessary tools to produce. Credit will be the most important means that we will be providing. We will offer a credit system different from the one that the Agricultural and Livestock Development Bank and the National Bank have been providing.

We will extend financing but will not hand out money to producers. We will first channel production inputs such as diesel fuel, which is an important element for the operation of tractor motors that will prepare the soil. We will later provide seeds and fertilizers, and, in due time, we will be handing out some money to producers.

It is logical that producers must contribute their work, land, and determination as Panamanians, patriots, and nationalists. They should feel the responsibilty to produce food, because that duty of producing food, which they have always fulfilled, cannot at any time be changed even though we are facing a difficult situation in the country resulting from U.S. aggression in the form of an embargo on funds and a disruption of the Panamanian banking system.

Government Issues Law on Public Works

PA171810 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Apr 88 p A-8

[Text] Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, has approved Law No 5, dated 15 April 1988, "which establishes and regulates the public works system through administrative concessions and adopts other dispositions" that have recently been approved by the Legislative Assembly.

The law has 29 articles and establishes the system of administrative concessions for carrying out public works of social interest, including construction, improvements, maintenance, preservation, restoration, and surveys for new highways, freeways, and other works the Cabinet Council considers to be in the public interest.

Through this system, a legal organization or company commits itself to carrying out activities on a concession basis under the control and supervision of the organization that awarded the concession. Only those works that benefit the nation can be considered to be in the public interest.

As of the time the concession is granted and throughout the time that the works are being carried out, the goods involved in the concession will be exempt from import taxes, reexport taxes, and internal revenue.

Likewise, the shareholders—whether they are individuals or organizations—receiving dividends from the activities of the concession will not be obliged to pay internal revenue.

The law, which will be in effect as soon as it is promulgated, empowers the executive branch, through the Public Works Ministry, to issue the regulations and authorizations that are needed for its full enforcement.

Nonaligned Movement Supports Government

PA170115 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, today addressed the Nonaligned Movement's Coordination Bureau. Today the Nonaligned Movement countries unanimously supported the government of Panama—whose strongman is General Manuel Antonio Noriega—in light of U.S. pressures.

The movement's Coordination Bureau approved a communique in which it deplores the fact that the U.S. Government has imposed measures of economic coercion against Panama, which is a flagrant violation of international law. The movement also urged U.S. authorities to immediately revoke political and economic measures imposed against Panama and to cease all actions that violate the independence, sovereignty, and territory of that country.

The nonaligned countries also voiced their concern over the growing deployment of U.S. military forces in Panama without the authorization of the Panamanian Government, which is a violation of the Panama Canal Treaties. After emphasizing the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of states, the communique reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Panamanian people to choose their own political, economic, and social system.

Government Denounces U.S. Stand on Mexico

PA171314 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 88 p A-8

["Press communique" issued in Panama City on 15 April]

[Text] The government of the Republic of Panama hereby voices support for the Mexican people and government in view of the U.S. Senate decision to demand economic and commercial sanctions against Mexico under the pretext that that country has not made a sufficient contribution in the struggle against drug trafficking.

This gross attempt at intervention, sponsored by the U.S. Senate and ignoring the fundamental principles of international law and coexistence, intends to violate the sovereignty and independence of nations which, like Mexico, have historically refused to tolerate foreign intervention in their domestic affairs.

At a time when the Republic of Panama is confronting grave U.S. aggression, the Panamanian Government condemns the U.S. interventionist actions against the Mexican nation.

Panama City, 15 April 1988

Argentina

Nicaragua's Borge Comments on Reagan Policies

PY151540 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1120 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (EFE)—Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said in Buenos Aires that U.S. President Ronald Reagan "will not be able to fulfill his promise to destroy us, as (John) Kennedy failed to destroy the Cuban revolution."

Borge told PAGINA 12, a Buenos Aires daily, that "we are closer today to a military victory over the counterrevolution."

Borge stressed that "Ronald Reagan's policies have caused 52,000 victims in my country. The largest river in Nicaragua is the river of spilled blood and not the Coco River. This is harshly demonstrated by the figures."

"In 1980 there were 4 deaths; in 1981, 135; in 1982, 164; in 1983, 5,033; in 1984, 8,334; in 1985, 10,592; in 1986, 12,194; and in 1987, 13,049. A total of 50,225 up to the day I left," Borge said.

The minister added: "If conditions were favorable to the counterrevolution, there would not be a force in the world capable of forcing them to negotiate, but we are interested in negotiating because of the historic responsibility, because we are in power, and because we need peace to rebuild the nation."

Borge said: "For the negotiation to be satisfactory, it has to end with an agreement signed by both sides. If negotiations fail, bullets will continue to whistle, and this time they will really whistle."

Asked about the regrouping of the "contras," Borge said that "the counterrevolutionaries would be grouped in areas that add up over 20,000 square km, in different parts of the country.

The Sandinist leader evaluated his recent visit to Uruguay and Argentina during which he met with politicians from the two countries.

Borge said that "following an invitation by President (Julio Maria) Sanguinetti, I visited Uruguay and met with the most important government leaders, with political parties, and the Uruguayan people.

"The visit to Argentina was only in transit, but I always wanted to meet its people. The Argentine people have shown great solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution. Argentina is the fatherland of Julio Cortazar, a great friend of Nicaragua, and from this country a century ago, Ruben Dario wrote "Azul," the book of poems that revolutionized Spanish poetry."

On Negotiations With Contras

PY151834 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0850 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr (TELAM)— Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has stated that the Sandinist government is negotiating with the contras because we have the historical responsibility, because we are the government, and because we need peace to rebuild the nation.

The Nicaraguan minister explained that the two parties have to reach an agreement if the negotiations are to be fruitful, although he warned that if the negotiations fail, then the bullets are going to continue to whistle and they will whistle very seriously.

He stated that 1 year ago the counterrevolutionaries had approximately 12,000 men in Nicaraguan territory and that currently the number of men is approximately 6,000. He also stressed that they (the Contras) are very close to a military collapse.

He stated that within the framework of the agreement with the Contras the amnesty includes today's criminals who in some cases are the criminals of yesterday, because some of them are former Somoza National Guardsmen, and they are now counterrevolutionaries. Therefore they are guilty twice over, he added.

In an interview with the morning newspaper PAGINA 12, Borge questioned the policy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan because it has cost Nicaragua 50,000 victims. He said that the largest river in Nicaragua is not the Coco River, by the river of blood that has been spilled.

Mar del Plata Naval Exercise Concludes 15 Mar

PY151726 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1625 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Mar del Plata, 15 Apr (TELAM)—The antisubmarine exercise concluded today at noon with the carrying out of various types of operations, basically parachute drops and life saving with boats. Navy personnel, fleet personnel, and submarines took part in the exercise off the coast of Mar del Plata.

Despite bad weather conditions, a cloudy sky, and rain, the final operations were carried out by tactical divers within the Mar del Plata Naval Base.

Naval Aviation units and a group of Sea King helicopters, which were used in the 1982 Malvinas War, participated in the operation. Tracker planes also participated, along with submarines, including the "San Luis."

The paratroopers jumped from a height of 1,200 meters from Naval Aviation planes.

The report on the exercise was given by Navy Captain Alberto Daniel Dabini, commander of the 2d Naval Aviation Squadron, based at the Comandante Spora Naval Base.

Navy Captain Fernando Azcueta, chief of staff of the submarine fleet, and other Navy commanders and officers also participarted in the meeting with the press. Azcueto offered details of the exercise, which was considered successful.

Bolivia

Paz 'Better' Following 13 Apr Illness

PY161252 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] [Monitored in progress]... said that President Paz Estenssoro's health worsened after going to Government House on 13 April to receive U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

The minister [not further identified] said the president is much better and has being working on routine administrative matters. The minister added that President Paz Estenssoro remains at the presidential residence in San Jorge, where he is being assisted while he works at analyzing the country's problems.

Official Comments on Edwin Meese Visit

PY151457 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] The voluntary eradication of coca plantations and the concept of nonviolence serve to guarantee the peace and stability of the national democratic process in our country, Alternative Development Under Secretary Anibal Aguilar Gomez has said. This concept was conveyed to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese during his recent visit to Bolivia, he added.

Aguilar said the visitor was told about the achievements of the program to eradicate coca crops in the major production areas. According to Aguilar, the most positive part of the U.S. official's visit was that he now understands that funds are needed not only to eradicate coca crops but also to develop the peasants' economy.

Brazil

Sarney Raps 'Verbal Violence, Moral Terrorism'

PY170334 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Apr 88 p A5

[Excerpt] During an interview after receiving the title of Citizen of Jales, 580 km northeast of Sao Paulo, yesterday morning, President Jose Sarney said that "verbal violence and moral terrorism are aimed at desintegrating democratic society." Sarney was alluding to what is happening at the CPI [Congressional Investigative Commission] on government corruption.

The president affirmed that "we, at times, witness in this country an abuse of freedom. Whenever one tries to desintegrate the democratic society through moral terrorism, which is the worst form of terrorism, one is attacking democracy."

In an earlier speech delivered before 2,000 people, Sarney alluded to "moral terrorism." The president said: "What Brazil needs at this time is a man who will not lose his patience, a man calm enough to tolerate injustices, verbal violence, and moral terrorism, and be fully aware that this is the sacrifice the nation asks of me (...) How many in this country, wearing the mask of democrats, are authoritarian inside. Through violence, then, they want to force decisions, stifle the freedom of others, and kill freedom by abusing it." In his speech, President Sarney talks about the accomplishments of his government, which are attested to by the record grain harvest and the installation of an efficient telecommunications systen in the Jales region. [passage omitted]

Colombia's Barco Meets With Sarney, Media

PA171308 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco will return from Brazil in the next few hours.

President Barco met with his Brazilian counterpart, President Jose Sarney, to assess the development of the coal, oil, and border development agreements signed by the two countries. President Barco also met with the Brazilian media.

During his visit to Brazil, Barco made statements to the local media, which showed special interest in the issue of drug trafficking. President Barco stated that Colombia has paid a very high price for its struggle against drug trafficking. Barco said that those who attacked the Supreme Court of Justice in November 1985 wanted to destroy certain documents.

[Begin Barco recording] You must recall that 12 members of the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice were killed in the fire and occupation of the courthouse. This attack was to destroy certain files. [end recording]

Concludes Visit

PY170101 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0004 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Text] Belem, Brazil, 16 Apr (EFE)—Today Colombian President Virgilio Barco departed at 2040 local time (2340 GMT) from Belem, capital of Para State, for Bogota, thus ending an official 2-day visit to Brazil.

Accompanied by Brazilian President Jose Sarney, Barco toured the iron mines of the Carajas mountain range, located in the Amazon region in the southern part of Para State.

The two presidents visited the open pit mine and a project for the conservation of animals and plants carried out in a nearby area by the company operating the Carajas mine. Later, President Barco went to the Belem international airport where he boarded a Colombian Air Force "Boeing" 707 that would take him back to Colombia, thus ending a 2-day visit to the Brazilian states of Maranhao and Para.

Today the two presidents agreed to establish an interministerial commission comprised of representatives from the two countries which will oversee the implementation of those agreements on mineral exchange and border cooperation signed in February when Jose Sarney visited Colombia.

Colombia

Colombian-U.S. Cultural Institute Dynamited

PA151909 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Report by Felix de Bedout in Medellin]

[Excerpts] The Andres Tamayo Commando [Comando Andres Tamayo] of the People's Militias [Milicias Populares] has claimed responsibility for a dynamite attack on the installations of the Colombian-U.S. Cultural Institute in Medellin. Four members of this subversive organization, wearing hoods, entered the educational center and, after requesting the center's evacuation, they placed the bomb in the library. The individuals fled, and the explosion immediately followed. [passage omitted]

The damage has been estimated at up to 120 million pesos. The installations of a clinic next to the site were also affected. Last year, the installations of the Colombian-U.S. Institute were also the target of an attack.

Paraguay

Colorado Deputy Raps U.S. Envoy, Saguier

PY151432 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Apr 88 p 8

[Excerpts] Yesterday in a speech in the Chamber of Deputies, Colorado Deputy Genaro Espinola strongly criticized opposition refugees Miguel Abdon Saguier and Hermes Rafael Saguier. Espinola was also tacitly critical of U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor. [passage omitted]

Espinola said, "In recent evening parties in the northern country (he was referring to the United States), Miguel Abdon Saguier said that the Paraguay Government protects drug trafficking and that the link between the Paraguayan Government and the drug traffickers has been confirmed. USIS was delighted to publish such charges (sic). We know very well that since he arrived in our country, the 'angel face' ambassador has protected and encouraged the irregular and subversive forces, and he has even boldly tried to lecture on democracy." This was a direct allusion to Clyde Taylor. [passage omitted]

Concerning Abdon Saguier, Espinola wondered: "Why didn't he seek refuge at the embassy of his patron?" (He was referring to the U.S. Embassy.) "Plainly," he went on, "because that embassy does not recognize the right of asylum, just as the country that it represents does not respect the human rights of the blacks in Harlem, and here they want to teach us lessons in democracy and human rights."

Visits by U.S. Government Officials Viewed

PY152359 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 15 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Seeking More Fair Treatment"]

[Text] The fact that influencial and prominent U.S. Government officials are visiting South American countries is important because, although the family of American countries extends practically from pole to pole, the truth is that the continent must be viewed separately: as North America, Central America, and South America. Furthermore, the continent should be viewed as an Anglo-Saxon America and Latin America. The Latin America includes Hispanic, Portuguese, and French ancestry. Even links some countries have with the Netherlands has to be considered, not to mention many others.

Given the complexity of such a large geographical expanse, the predominant ideological unity is worth noting. The majority of Latin American nations are aligned with the free world and are, therefore, identified with representative democracy and the principles of non-intervention and self-determination, not to mention the common acceptance of human rights as they are conceived in the West.

However, if this ideological unity—which has only been broken by the totalitarian shift of Cuba and the dangerously similar position of Nicaragua, and other conflicts of uncertain outcome—is not supported by the major power that leads the free world, any divorce, any misunderstanding, any contradiction, and—all the more—any conflict, will have a negative effect. This lack of support will only undermine the cohesion and unity which constitute the moral force nurtured by the harmony of the whole. The superpower may have the necessary strength to assert its positions vis-a-vis the differing ideology, which today is Marxism-Leninism. But the unity of the hemispheric nations, not including the defectors, calls for more than naked power. It calls for agreement in the political, economic, and social spheres. The spiritual realm should also be included because the Americas are Christian territories.

Therefore, the visits of U.S. Government officials to Latin America are important. The visits of U.S. senators, representatives, politicians, and military officers are also important. After the visits, these people return to exert their influence in light of personal contacts and on-site observations and as a result of diverse opinions they get

from direct sources. This is the manner in which they will be able to adjust their thinking to reality and to substantiate their positions. "Denunciations" by the local population, who have obviously adopted a sectarian and fanatical position disregarding democratic solutions, cannot be the basis for a correct assessment of reality.

The U.S. attorney general has recently visited the Dominican Republic as part of a tour that will take him to Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador for the purpose of discussing drug trafficking and U.S. cooperation to eliminate it. Some countries were not included in this tour; Paraguay was not even mentioned. Nevertheless, it is important to everyone that this tour has a definite purpose. It means that a plan of action is afoot, but, due to its nature, the plan will have to be expanded to other countries in the region to the extent necessary to ensure the success of the fight against drug trafficking. This prospect alone is sufficient to raise hopes about a realistic appraisal of the problem, without bias against any country. Above all, this approach [the U.S. officials' visits] should prevent the politicization of the problem from making it a pretext for slanderous campaigns, such as the one being waged against Paraguay, or for offensive discrimination that might result from an inaccurate perception of a nation's reality.

Looking at it from that angle, and for reasons closer to our hearts, we await the announced visit of General Vernon Walters with optimism and expectation. He has been an old friend of Paraguay and particularly of President Alfredo Stroessner ever since he was here some years ago. Now, he will be able to personally appreciate what has been accomplished here in the past decades, in all aspects of economic and social development. With his experience and wisdom, Gen Walters will be able to say if the progress made has been only material or if it has also brought about a change of mentality and a better quality of life for everyone. A personality like Gen Vernon Walters, current U.S. ambassador to the UN, is very important as a witness, and we are sure his trip to Paraguay will have good repercussions. We also believe his trip will be good for the entire region because the observation of a single case, reflecting aspects of similar problems elsewhere, should be sufficient to awaken an interest in the search for general solutions.

We hoped that the recent visit of Robert Gelbard to Buenos Aires would have the same result. But, unfortunately, through other contacts, the most poisonous piece of the antinational opposition, Domingo Laino, had access to Mr Gelbard's ears. Thus, Laino found a way to proceed with the obnoxious campaign he began during his private visit to the United States. On that occasion, through back alleys, Laino poured into U.S. State Department officials his anti-Colorado and anti-Stroessner bile infected with the virus of electoral abstensionism and conspiracy. We said at that time that the "tovarich" [Laino] should not press his luck, because eventually Washington will discover the duplicity and falsehood of such a demagogue—who was brought up in the barricades of Cohn-Bendt in Paris and whose visits to countries behind the Iron Curtain will be revealed. This "tovarich" goes to Brazil and decries the United States and later goes to Buenos Aires and praises the Reagan government to the envoy of that government.

But we should be optimistic and think that Gen Walters' visit will prove the exception to the rule, rebutting with his testimony the best fabrications about our country. A report from Gen Walters no doubt should command more credibility in Washington than Domingo Laino's. We are sure that through other channels, and in the least expected ways, information based on direct experience will be made available so that views can be rectified and set straight. Thus, the lies spread by the agitators and provocateurs will be unmasked, showing that these characters do not belong to God or the Devil—they are only slaves to their passions and ambitions. When that happens, things will be back in their proper place and justice will be done to our country for its loyalty to the principles of the free world and for its spirit of cooperation.

Peru

Government Wins Vote of Confidence From Chamber

PY150401 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Last night the Chamber of Deputies gave a vote of confidence to the cabinet, led by Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox. The motion was approved following a briefing by Cox on the government's overall policy.

In his speech, Cox said the government has managed to stop foreign currency losses, and he reported that Peruvian international reserves currently stand at $1.2 billion. He also urged the opposition to stop creating anguish among the people by predicting chaos in the country.

In his voluntary appearance before the Chamber of Deputies, Cox announced that no more foreign currency losses are occuring. Thus, he ruled out a possible depletion of our international reserves. He emphasized that the government will give greater attention to food, housing, and health and education. In this regard, he said, Peruvian growth will be based on productive activities that will in turn be based on our own natural resourses; that is, on items from the agricultural, fisheries, and livestock sectors.

Commenting on the efforts the government will make to foster growth in Peru's most important sectors, Cox said these actions will be made independently from the IMF. He added that talks will countinue to be held with the World Bank and development banks in order to implement projects and special programs designed to resolve structural problems.

Cox said that as of 31 March, Peruvian international reserves stood at $888 million at the Central Reserve Bank and at $270 million in the remaining sectors of the Peruvian financial system.

The Peruvian prime minister noted that he and the other members of the cabinet appeared before the Chamber of Deputies to discharge their political responsiblity and to convey to the people the government's views on the current situation and on its prospects.

Late last night the Chamber of Deputies approved a motion of confidence of Larco Cox's cabinet. The motion was proposed by APRA Secretary General Luis Negreiros Criado.

Uruguay

Reportage on Comments by Nicaragua's Borge

On U.S. 'Cultural Invasion'

PY170047 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish
9 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] At a ceremony in the conference hall of the university, Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge said that "the road to culture is blazed by the revolution and the road to revolution is blazed by culture."

The Sandinist leader recalled words from one of the founders of the FSLN, Richard Morales, who said that "the cultural struggle cannot be above the revolutionary struggle, nor can they be parallel; the cultural struggle is part of the revolutionary struggle; it is one of the fronts of the revolutionary struggle."

Borge stressed that "the conquest of freedom, the rescue of sovereignty, and the takeover of power have been a cultural undertaking, a crusade for culture and toward culture; the first achievement of the Sandinist cultural revolution in its whole existence."

The Nicaraguan interior minister warned about "the danger of a U.S. military invasion in Central America. But more terrible than a military invasion is the U.S. cultural invasion, an invasion much more dangerous than an invasion by the U.S. Marines." "The Marines would have to confront the patriotism of the people, whereas the U.S. cultural policy can bury us—and is burying us," he added.

He pointed out that "because of the condition of its management and ownership palace at the service of the dominant class, television in Latin America is a formidable agent of political and ideological domination over the people." Then he said: "Let's not allow subsidiaries of the Yankee lifestyle, of the culture drawn in the Santa Fe document to continue being established in Latin America."

Borge emphasized: "I am referring to the cultural policy of imperialism, I am talking about the empire of the manufacturers of poverty and humiliation of the people. I am not talking about Louis Armstrong's trumpet, or John Steinbeck's novels, not about Jack London, or Woody Allen movies, or Jesse Jackson's speeches—all of which elicit admiration from mankind and the Americans themselves."

In conclusion, the Sandinist leader said that the Sandinist vision of culture "is neither apocalyptic nor integrated [as published]."

On C. America, Visit

PY161433 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish
9 Apr 88 p 3

[Report on news conference held by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge with unidentified reporters in Montevideo on 8 April; quotation marks as published]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Minister, do you believe the U.S. policy toward Nicaragua will change after the U.S. elections?

[Borge] "Regardless of who gets elected, the candidate of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party—even if Bush is elected—the Reagan policy will change. Bush is a more pragmatic and less visceral man. As the Americans say, Bush is less ideological than Reagan."

Borge said there is no leading candidate yet for the Democratic Party, although it seems that Michael Dukakis will become one.

"Whoever the next U.S. president might be, we as a sovereign country are most willing to establish more proper and more resptectfull relations with the United States—and I mean mutually respectful. There will be a change, whoever is elected. But Nicaragua will not change its attitude of being open to dialogue with that country."

[Reporter] To what extent has the economic situation impaired the revolutionary commitments of 1979?

[Borge] "Nicaragua has always had a bad economic situation, but the truth is that the war of aggression against us has turned a bad situation into an obvious crisis. Our exports have deteriorated and our production has seriously decreased. A lopsided trade of a sadistic character has hit us just as it did other Latin American countries. Inflation is running high, and products are scarce. Peace can help us begin to resolve these problems," Borge added.

"It should be admired how the people have stayed fast to the revolutionary dream, despite the suspension of social programs, the difficulties we face, and the disproportion between salaries and prices."

[Reporter] The chief of the "contras" has said he will not go to Managua because he would be imprisoned there. What is the next step to reaching a cease-fire?

[Borge] "Mr Calero is a prisoner of his own fear. We are serious and responsible people, and we guarantee the safety of that counterrevolutionary gentlemen. When he comes to Managua, Calero will be convinced, I am sure, that nothing will happen to him. Negotiations are moving ahead slowly, but they are moving."

In recent days, the military chiefs of the counterrevolution, military chiefs of the Nicaraguan Army, and officials of the government have met in Sapoa to determine the areas where counterrevolutionary forces can be concentrated. Today they occupy a total area of 20,000 square km, Borge added. "There are difficulties about how the humanitarian aid approved by the U.S. Congress will reach the counterrevolutionaries. We are opposed to the idea of this assistance being extended through third countries. We believe the International Red Cross should do that under Nicaragua's control."

Borge said his country has lately been accused of introducing armed brigades into Panama. "What has happened, in fact, is that Panamanian brigades are being organized in Panama; Panamanians are being trained to defend their sovereignty and their territorial integrity, which is being threatened, as is widely known, by U.S. economic and military sanctions.

[Reporter] How do you evaluate what the Contadora Group, the Group of Eight, and the socialist countries have been doing regarding your country?

[Borge] "All peoples, but particularly the Latin American people, have extended their political solidarity to us. Allow me to say that we especially appreciate the solidarity of the Uruguayan people. I am not saying this just because I happen to be in Uruguay. Some governments, like those of Peru and Uruguay, have demonstrated exemplary attitudes. The Contadora Group is the natural attitude of self-defense of the Latin American peoples against the aggressive policy of the United States, which has used Nicaragua and Central America as a laboratory to experiment the strategy conceived in the Santa Fe document."

The solidarity of the Contadora and Contadora Support Groups, which brought about the Esquipulas agreement, gave us the oxygen to keep our revolution breathing."

"However, the determinant factor has been the fortitude, the dignity, and the fighting spirit of our people. This has been complemented by the solidarity mentioned before."

"We equally appreciate the assistance extended to us by many countries in the world, including the socialist countries. I believe the Soviet Union has had an exemplary attitude—always respectful, unconditional at all times, even when supplying petroleum to us."

Borge also stressed the exemplary assistance Nicaragua received from Cuba and European countries, namely, Sweden, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, and the FRG to a lesser extent.

Commander Borge also talked about the impression of the first 24 hours he spent in our country. "The Uruguayan people are well-educated, civilized, progressive, and unified. There exists here an internal unity that is reflected outwards. You can be sure that whenever we hear the word Uruguay in Nicaragua it is like music to our ears."

"Uruguay contributed its blood to the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. Uruguayans Alberto Alpui and Hector Altesor gave their lives in the fight against Somoza. The grave of Hector Altesor, whom we called Meme, is in Nicaraguan soil. There were others: the television journalist Erico Zas Cano; his cousin Cano, known by his last name, also a journalist; another journalist, Marcos Conteris, who fell in combat recently in 1985, was buried in Nicaragua. I went to see his mother, who lives here, this morning. I expressed to her our human solidarity and gratitude for her son's blood spilled in defense of Nicaragua's freedom and sovereignty. May we some day...I hope another country never attacks Uruguay. This probably won't happen...but we would be willing to defend Uruguay with the same enthusiam, the same energy as we would be willing to defend Argentina's sovereignty in the Malvinas case. We are willing to go and fight there, if necessary, to defend Argentine sovereignty, just like we would be willing to defend any other Latin American country. Those who listen to me know that I am not just saying this."

Commander Borge affirmed that no dissonant note was heard at any of his meetings held so far with Uruguayan authorities and political leaders. Referring to Uruguay's foreign policy, Borge said that "it unifies all lines of thinking." Talking about President Sanguinetti, Borge noted his fluent speech and the coherence in what he says. I won't go into what he said...his words about Nicaragua...A talented and politically attractive man. No wonder he was elected president of Uruguay."

Borge recalled that he had met "with his old friend General Serengi," and he talked about Vice President Enrique Tarigo, noting his attitude toward Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What was the significance of your visit with the archbishop of Montevideo, Msgr Gottardi?

[Borge] "I brought a letter from Msgr Obando y Bravo to Msgr Gottardi. I would liked to have read it, but it was a private letter and I had to respect it as such. Since they

both are Salesians and I am a former Salesian student...we could talk very well. The Nicaraguan people are Christian, and I believe they are more militantly Christian than other people. I don't know how it is in Uruguay. The percentage of Catholics in Nicaragua is very high, and the percentage of Christians is even higher. In recent years, the membership in Protestant churches has been on the rise.

"We are cultivating a special relationship between Christian revolutionaries and non-Christian revolutionaries. Christians participated in the fight against Somoza, and they did so as Christians, not as Sandinists. The front has Christians who are politically militant. Some are even Catholic priests. You know that the foreign minister of the Republic of Nicaragua is a priest, just as the until recently Education Minister, Father Ernesto Cardenal, who is a great poet and human being. Others have been very active, both in and out the government."

Guyana

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Canada

FL160058 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 15, CANA—The Guyana and Canadian Governments on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding for the creation of a single counterpart fund which will be used to help finance development projects in Guyana.

According to Guyana's Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), over the years several such funds have been created as a result of Canadian-assisted projects from which local currency was generated. However, the agreement brings together the several funds into one account. It also makes provisions for the utilisation of the funds in the consolidated account.

Signing on behalf of Canada was Canadian High Commissioner William Sinclair while head of DIEC Dr Cecil Rajana signed for Guyana.

New Minister of Legal Affairs Sworn In

FL160050 Bridgetown CANA in English 1958 GMT 15 Apr 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 15, CANA—Keith Massiah, who retired on Thursday as the head of Guyana's judiciary, was sworn in on Friday as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs. The appointment put an end to months of speculation about a successor to Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen who resigned in February to take up an appointment as a judge at the World Court.

Chief Justice Kenneth George was sworn in to act as chancellor of the judiciary, an office which serves as chief judge of the appeal court among its functions. Massiah's entry into politics has come as a surprise to some political observers.

In a landmark decision last October, he ruled against the government and in effect struck down a labour law as unconstitutional. Massiah's decision in that case was seen in some circles as a major dent in the armour of the man he now succeeds and was largely responsible for his being named by the local privately-owned STABROEK NEWS newspaper as its man of the year for 1987 in Guyana. Since then, Massiah featured in another controversy sparked by his decisions in two libel cases against the CATHOLIC STANDARD and its editor, filed a few years ago by Hoyte when he was a vice president. Hoyte was awarded G105,000 dollars in a decision criticised by the newspaper and the political opposition.

Massiah, who a few years ago received the nation's second highest national award, the Order of Roraima, has had a long and distinguished career dating back to 1958 in Guyana's legal and judicial service. He was appointed chancellor of the judiciary in 1984.

Since Shahabuddeen's departure, President of National Mobilisation Ranji Chandisingh, who is not a lawyer, has been shouldering the additional responsibilities for the Ministry of Legal Affairs.